

LASH LARUE WESTERN



A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



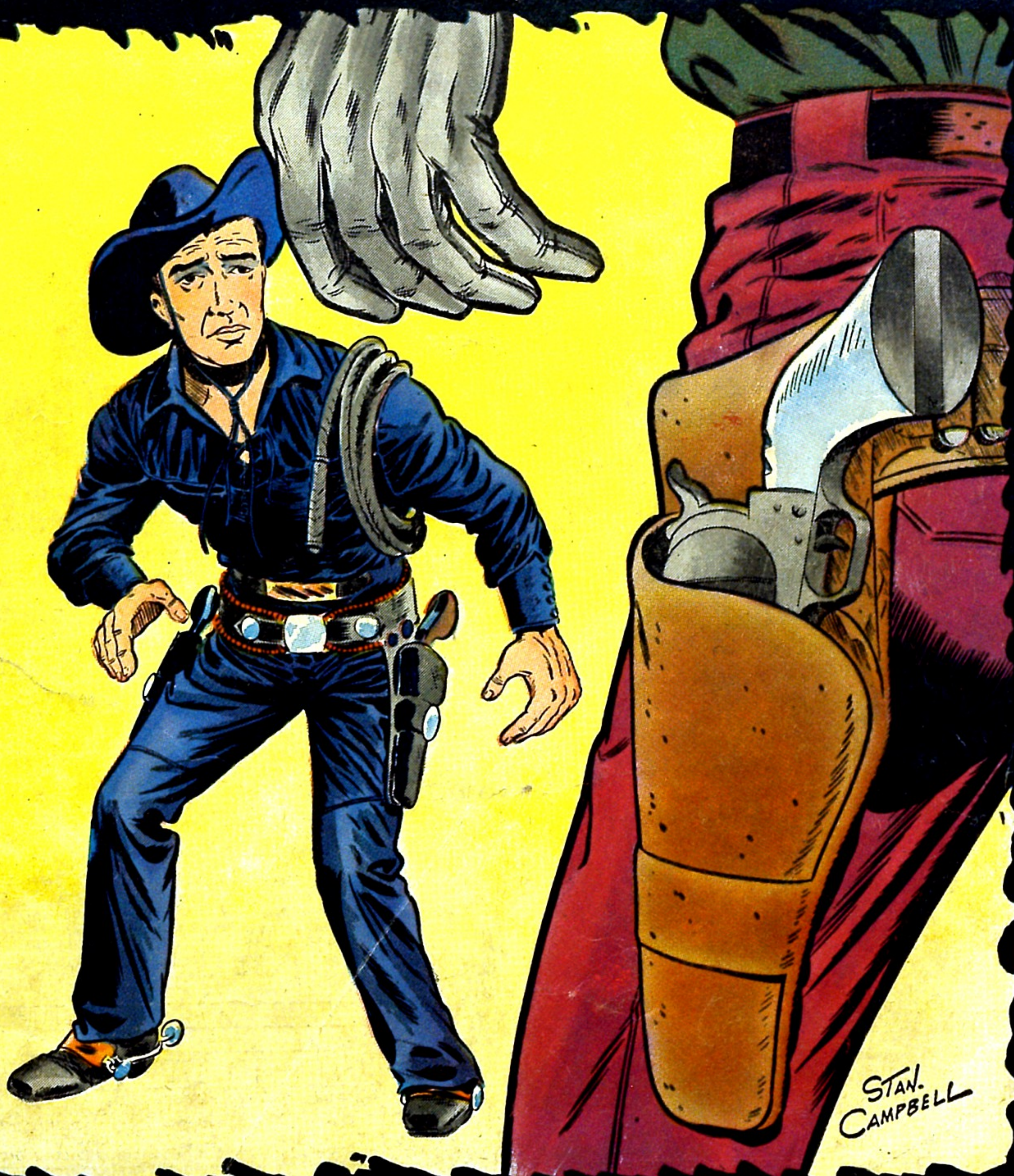
AUTHORITY

LASH LARUE

WESTERN

No 57

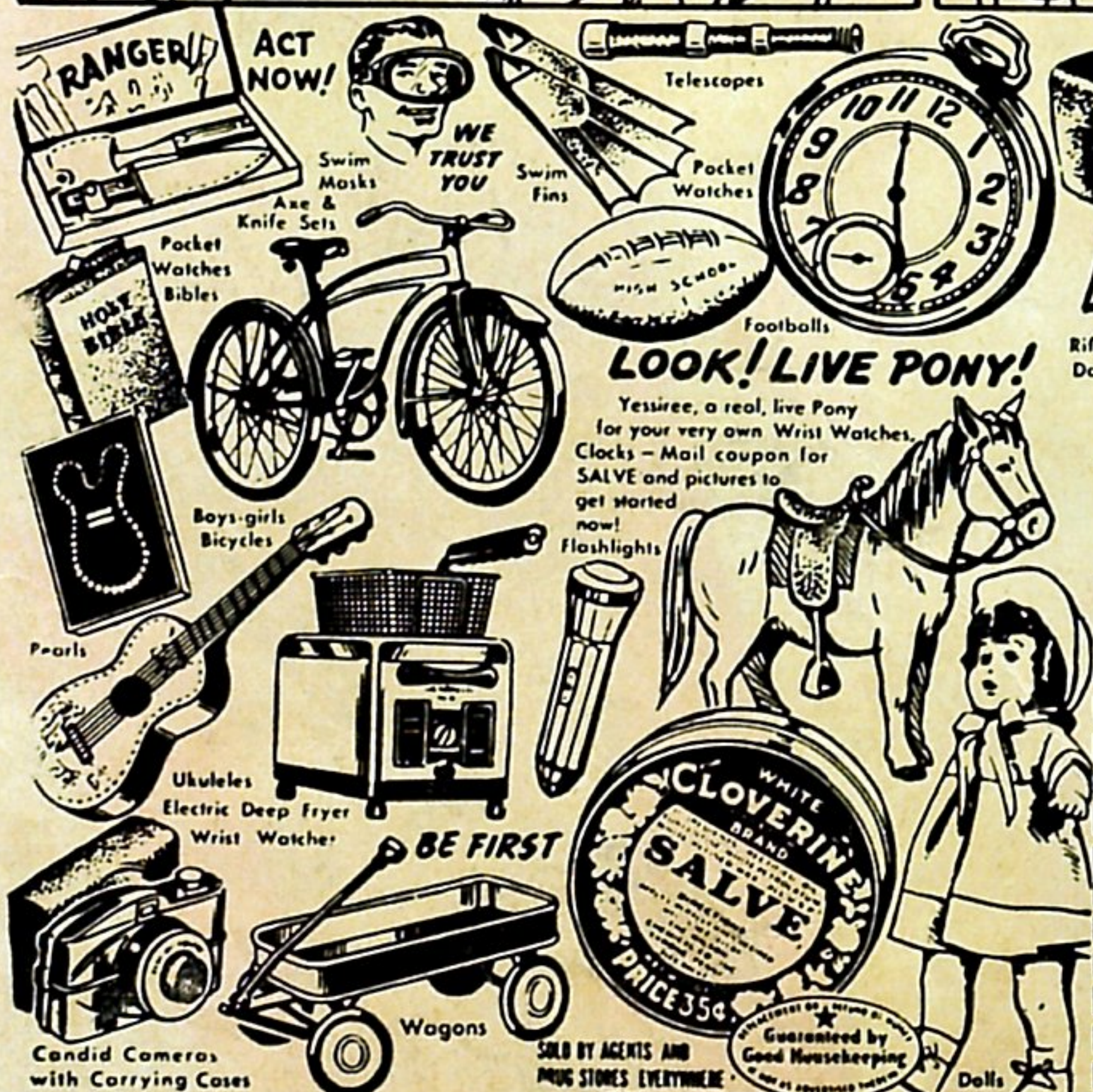
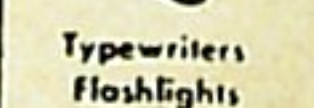
10¢



STAN.
CAMPBELL



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM



22 Calibre
les, 1000-Shot
Air Rifles

Real Rye

MAIL COUPON

LET'S GO!

BIG CATALOG!

ACT NOW!

WE TRUST YOU

Alarm Clocks, Pen and Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Telescopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware, Record Players, Movie Machines (sent postage paid). Rush coupon to start!

OUR 60th YEAR

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. 99 , Tyrone, Pa. Date.....
Gentlemen:- Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order. postage paid to start.

NAME AGE
ST. R. D. BOX
TOWN ZONE NO. STATE
PRINT LAST NAME HERE

NAME HERE

 Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

Wilson Chem. Co. Dept. 99 , Tyre, Pa. **WE ARE RELIABLE!**

Lash LARUE

THE
FRONTIER PHANTOM
RIDES AGAIN!

HEY, YUH! HOLD
UP THERE!

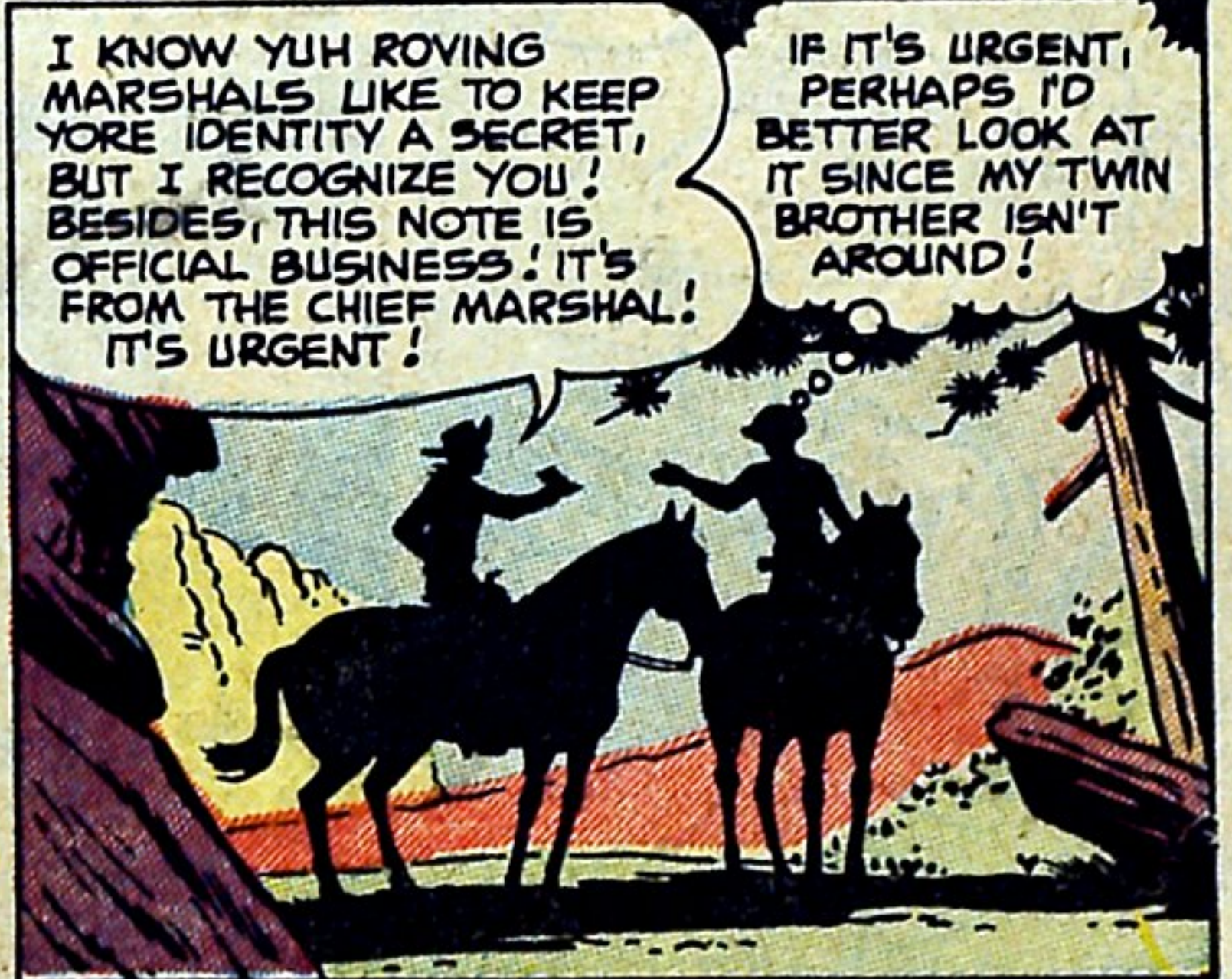
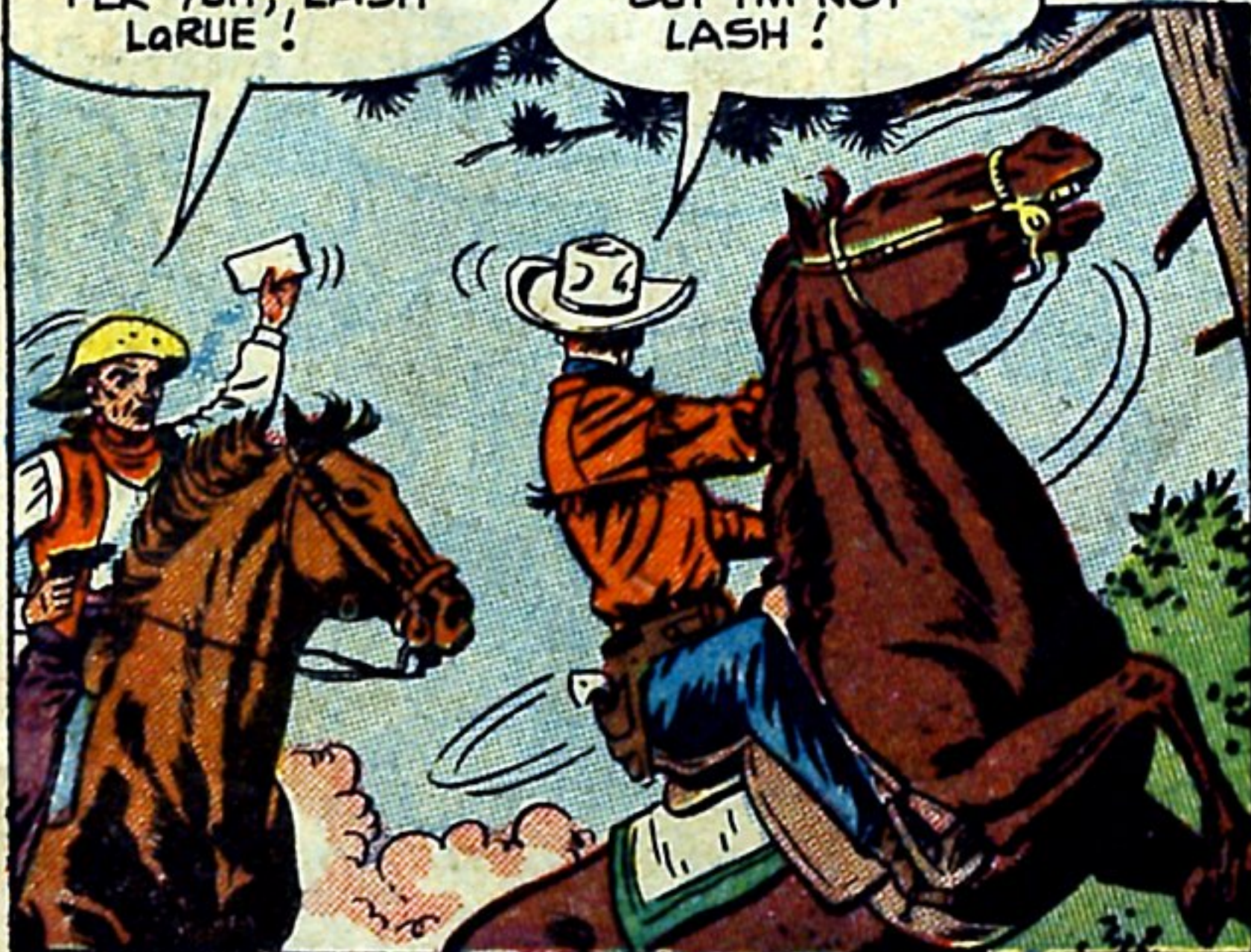
ONE DAY AS THE FRONTIER
PHANTOM, LASH LARUE'S TWIN
BROTHER, RIDES THROUGH THE
HILLS OUTSIDE OF LARADO...

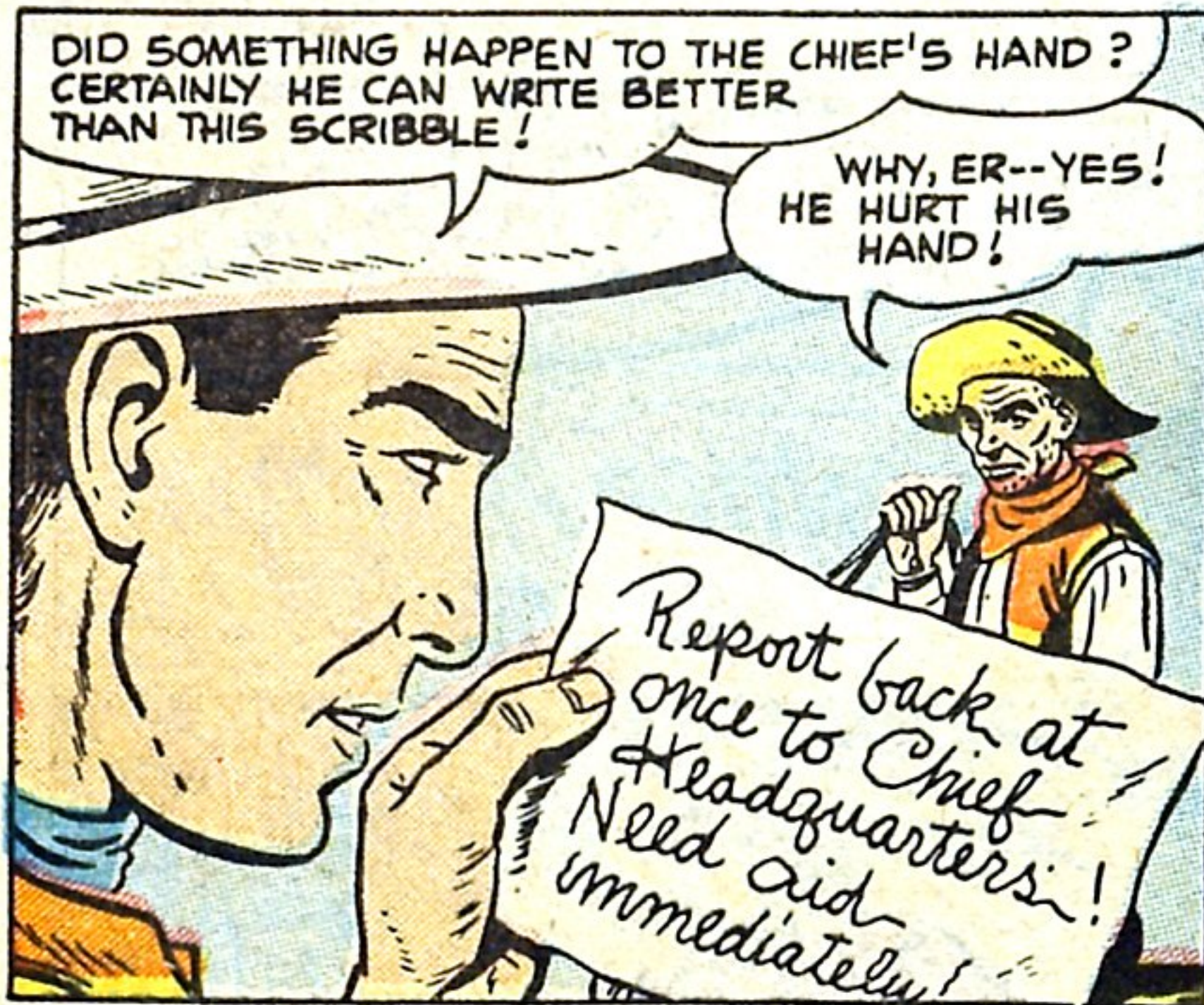
I'VE GOT A MESSAGE
FER YUH, LASH
LARUE!

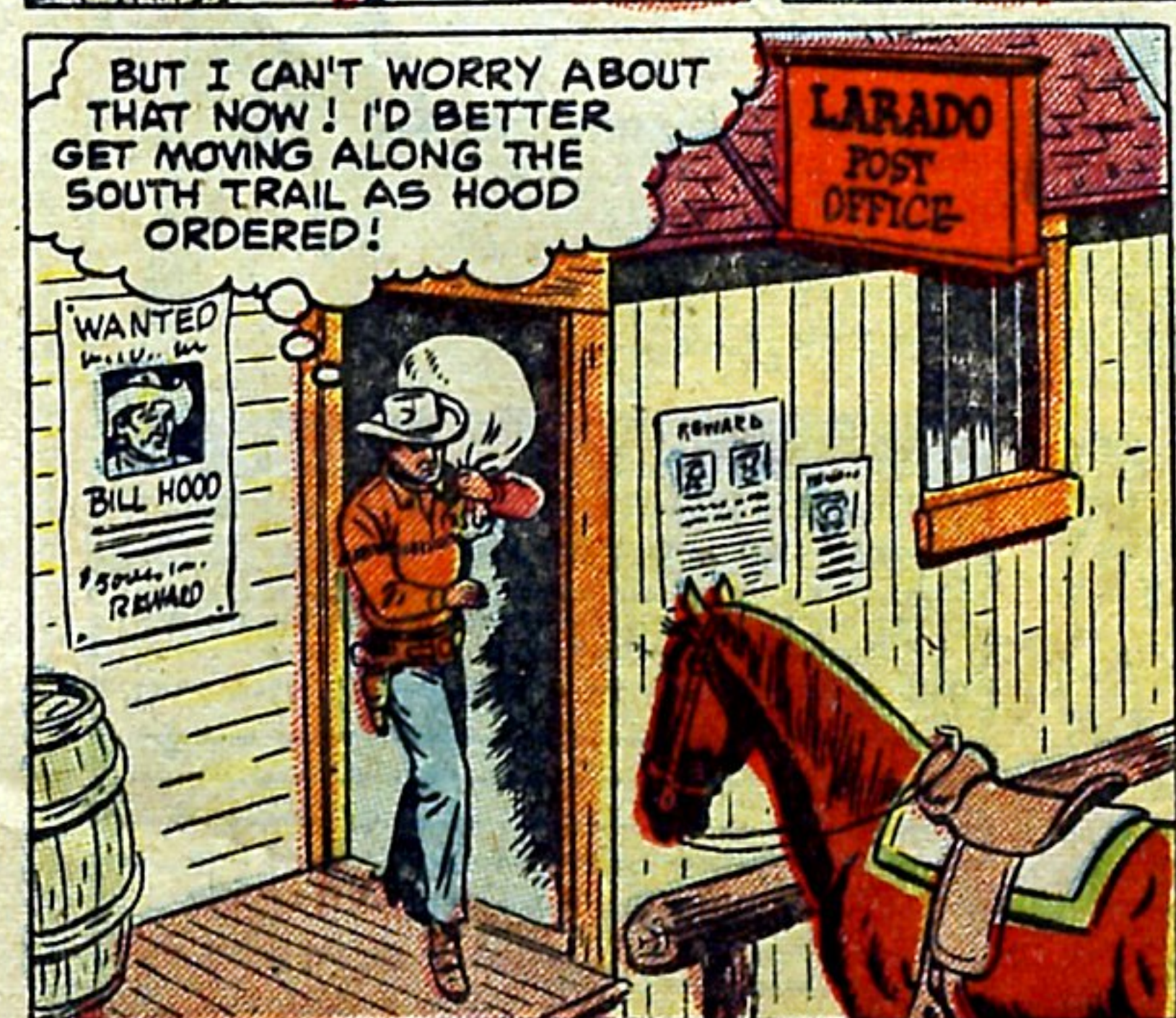
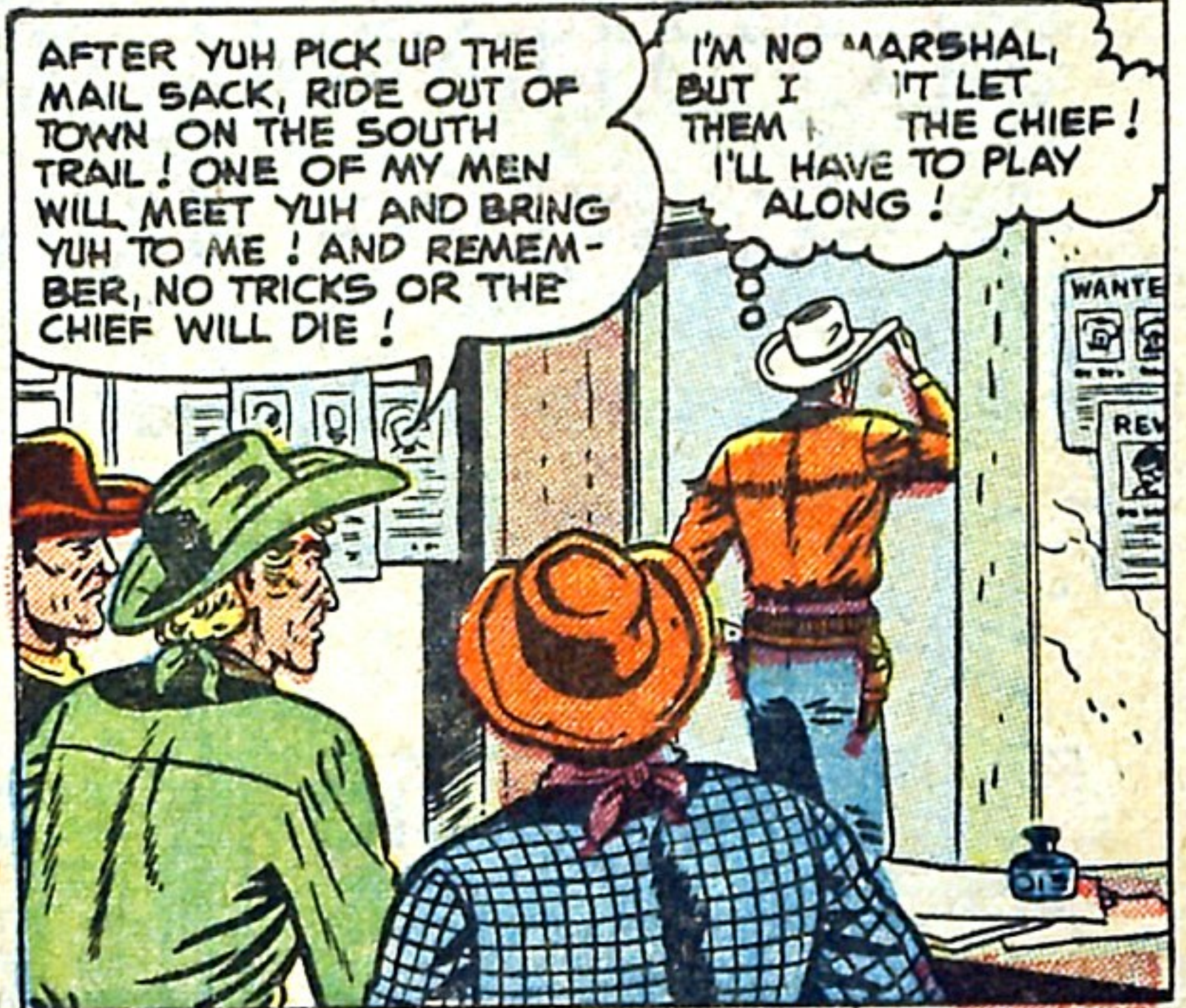
LASH LARUE?
BUT I'M NOT
LASH!

I KNOW YUH ROVING
MARSHALS LIKE TO KEEP
YORE IDENTITY A SECRET,
BUT I RECOGNIZE YOU!
BESIDES, THIS NOTE IS
OFFICIAL BUSINESS! IT'S
FROM THE CHIEF MARSHAL!
IT'S URGENT!

IF IT'S URGENT,
PERHAPS I'D
BETTER LOOK AT
IT SINCE MY TWIN
BROTHER ISN'T
AROUND!







MYSTERY! MAGIC! SCIENCE! FUN!

To Amuse and Amaze Your Friends



5 IN 1
WAND

A necessary tool for the amateur magician and a good joke too. Plastic, 14 inches long with white tips and a black center 5 exciting tricks—Rises, jumps, produces silk, etc. No. 240.....

1.50



Boomerang

Here's something new in target throwing. In case you miss, it comes right back to you, and bingo! you're all set to "fire" again. More fun than a "barrel of monkeys".

No. 141.....

50¢

THROW YOUR VOICE



Ventro
& Book

Your chance to be a ventriloquist. Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, and everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. You'll fool the teacher, your friends, and your family and have fun doing it. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist".

No. 137.....

25¢



RADIO
MIKE

Talk, Sing, Play thru your radio

Sing, laugh, talk, crack jokes from an other room and your voice will be reproduced thru the radio! Fool everybody into thinking it's coming right out of the radio. Easily attached to most standard radios. Made of handsome enameled metal 4 inches high

No. 112.....

1.98

TRICK BASEBALL

It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it dips, it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce of this amazing baseball. No. 158

50¢



Your chance to have eyes in back of your head. See behind or alongside and no one knows you are watching. Fun everywhere you go.

No. 146.....

35¢

LOOK-BACK
SCOPE



TALKING TEETH

They move! They talk! They're weird! Guaranteed to shut the blabbermouths up for good. It'll really embarrass them. It's a set of big false teeth that when wound up, start to chatter away, like crazy. A great comic effect for false teeth on cold nights.

No. 513.....

1.25

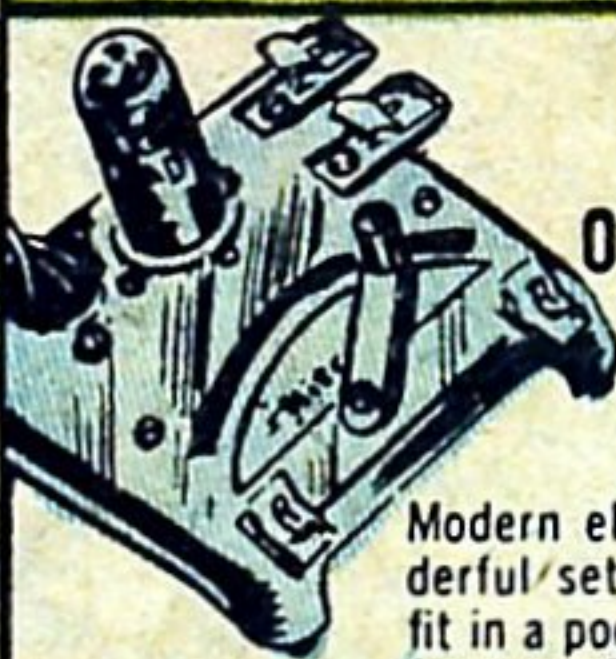


WHOOPEE CUSHION

Place it on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream at parties and gatherings.

No. 247.....

50¢



POWERFUL MANY EXCLUSIVE ITEMS AVAILABLE
COMPACT
ONE TUBE RADIO

Pocket Size... Brings in stations up to 1000 miles away

Modern electronics makes this wonderful set possible. So small it will fit in a pocket. Everything is supplied for you. Easy to assemble in a few minutes with just a screw driver. No soldering required. Really powerful too. Announcements of stations up to 1000 miles away come in so loud and clear you'd think they were right near home. Learn many useful and important things about radio.

No. 205

3.98



BLACK EYE JOKE

Show them the "naughty" pictures inside. They'll twist it and turn it to see, but all they do is blacken their eyes.

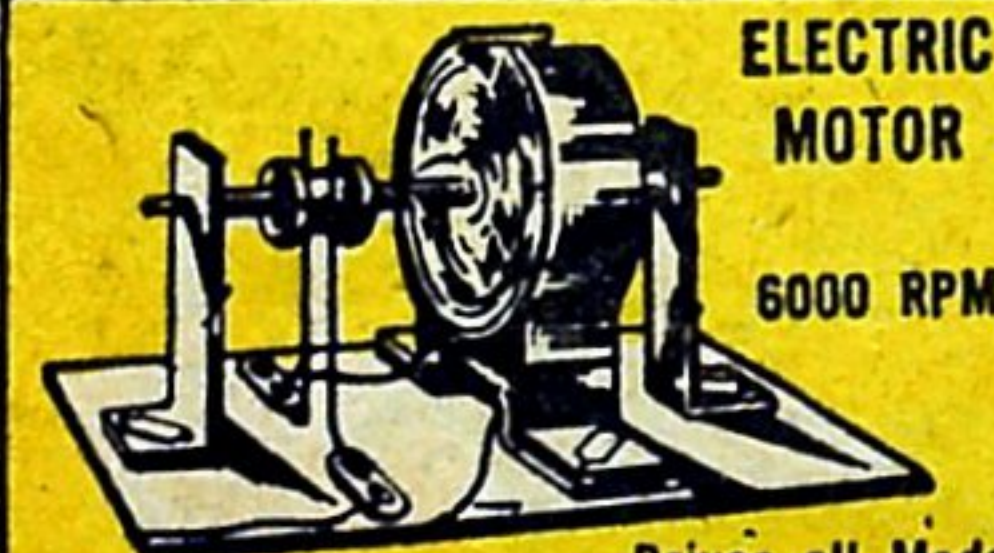
No. 216.....

25¢

Costume Set Designed for Every Boy

Style 160 — For you he-men, we've got the newest, most exciting and tremendous play suit of its time. A complete Superman outfit in fine durable washable rayon gabardine. Outfit includes red cape with screened Superman figure, navy and red suit with gilt figure "S", and belt. Be first to get this wonderful outfit. Sizes 4-14.

6.98



ELECTRIC
MOTOR

6000 RPM

—Drives all Models

This is an offer that sounds unbelievable but it is being made just the same. Yes, you can have an actual electric motor for just 50¢. This compact little kit makes it a cinch to build this high-power motor. And the fun you are going to get from using it. It's so simple, and your motor is ready to turn out 6000 rpm's of power to work for you. The coils of this remarkable tool actually turn at the rate of 1500 feet per minute.

No. 052

Only 50¢



JOY
BUZZER

The most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation". Absolutely harmless.

No. 239.....

Only 50¢

10 DAY TRIAL FREE

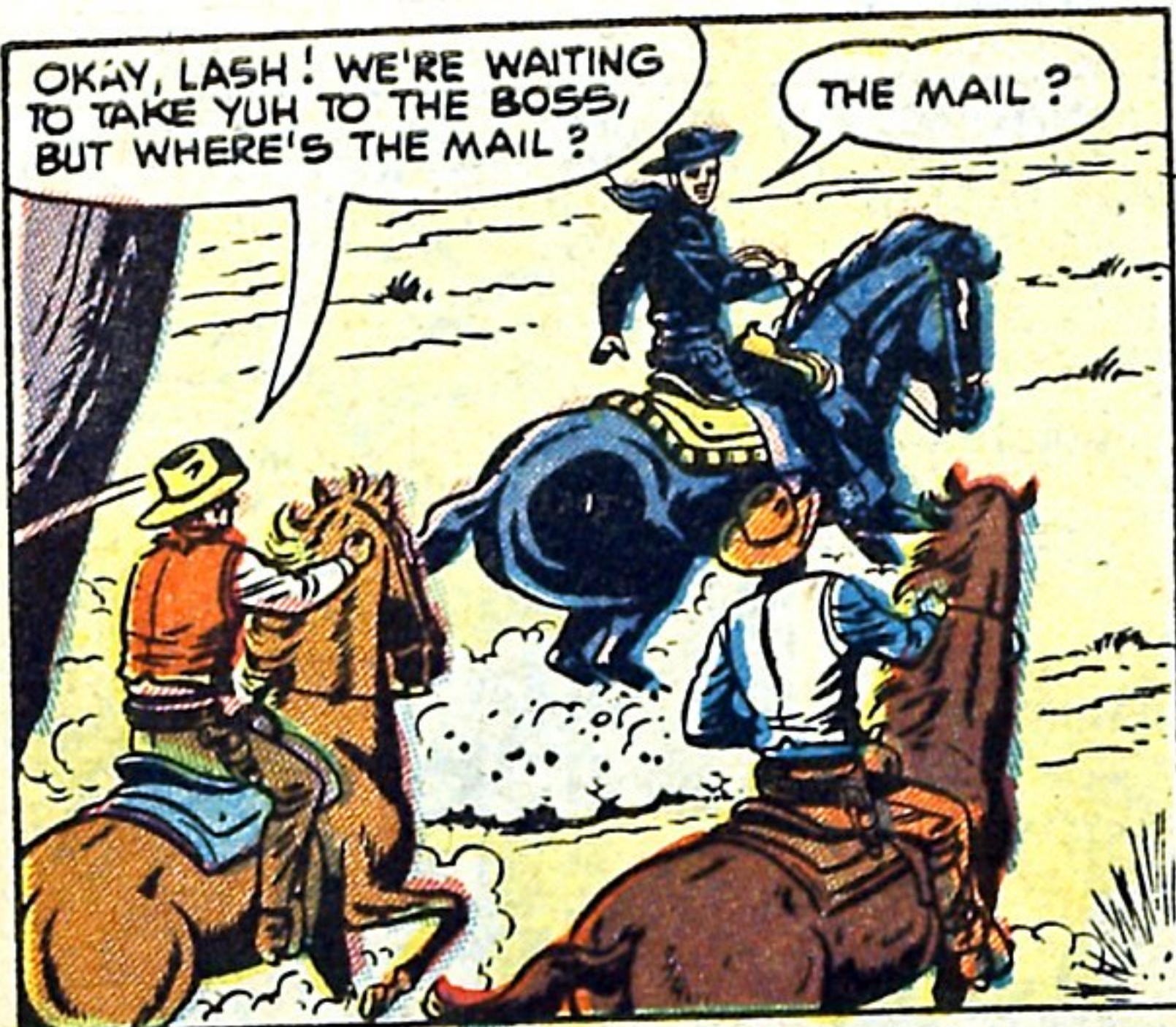
HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP., Lynbrook, N. Y. Dept. 43
Cannot ship orders totalling less than \$1.00. O.
Rush me the items listed below. If I am not satisfied I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days free trial for full refund of the purchase price.

ITEM	NAME OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

☐ I enclose _____ in full payment. The Honor House Products Corp. will pay postage.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

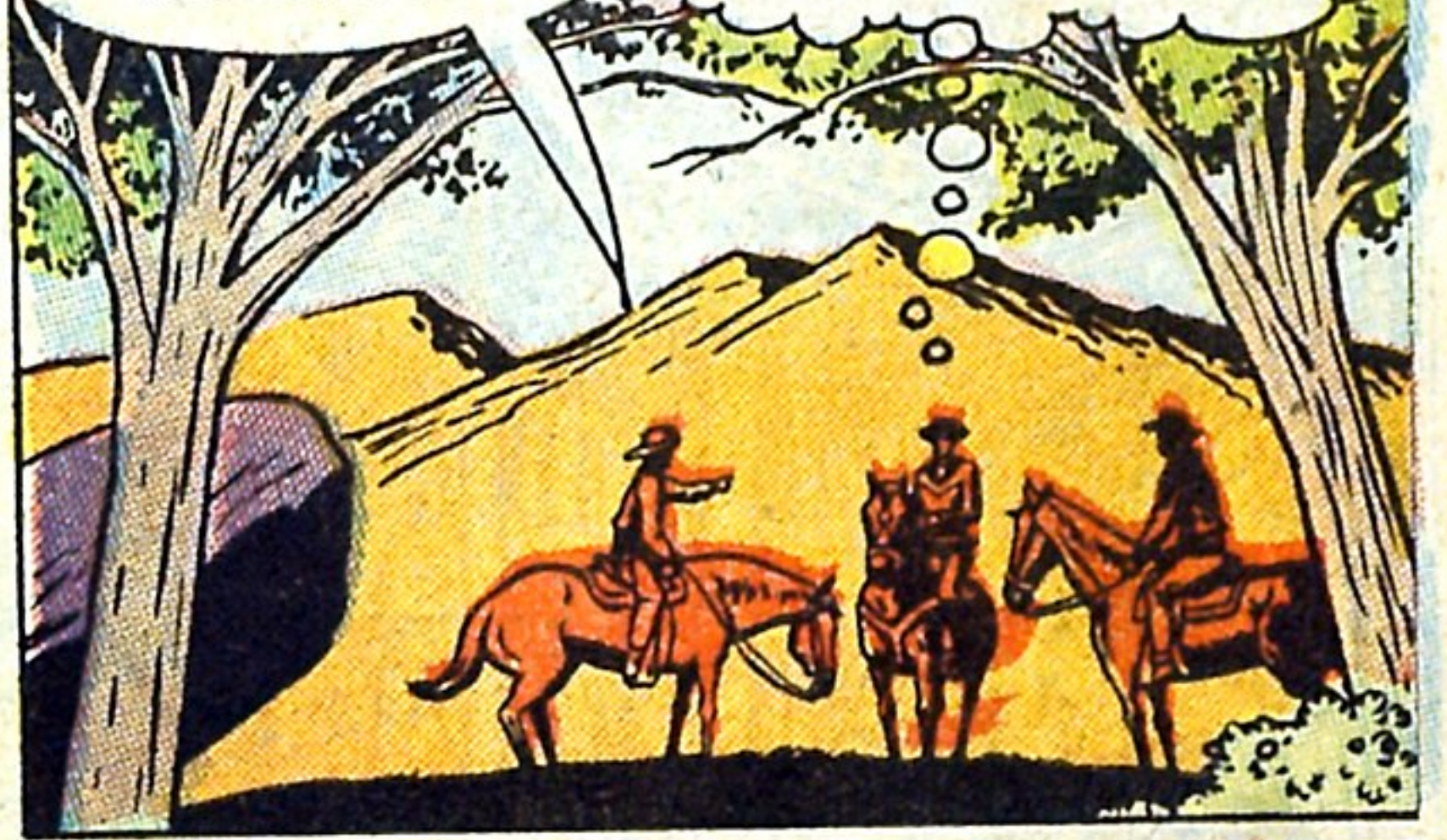


OKAY, LASH! WE'RE WAITING TO TAKE YUH TO THE BOSS, BUT WHERE'S THE MAIL?

THE MAIL?

THE BOSS WARNED YUH ABOUT PULLING ANY TRICKS! YUH BETTER BRING THE MAIL, OR HE'LL KILL THE CHIEF MARSHAL!

KILL THE CHIEF MARSHAL? I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, BUT WITH THE CHIEF'S LIFE AT STAKE, I'D BETTER TRY MY HAND AT BLUFFING!



I'M NOT TURNING OVER THE MAIL UNTIL I'M SURE THE CHIEF IS ALIVE!

WE'LL TAKE YUH TO THE BOSS! YUH CAN ARGUE IT OUT WITH HIM!

BUT JUST TO MAKE SURE YUH DON'T KNOW THE LOCATION OF OUR HIDING PLACE, I'M GOING TO BLINDFOLD YUH!



SHORTLY AFTER--

OKAY, LASH! WE'RE HYAR! I'LL REMOVE THE BLINDFOLD!



IT'S BILL HOOD! I WISH I COULD BE FACING HIM WITHOUT THE CHIEF BEING HELD A PRISONER!

WHERE'S THE MAIL?

HE WON'T TURN IT OVER, HOOD, UNTIL HE'S SURE THE CHIEF IS ALIVE!



OKAY, LASH, I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SHOWING YUH WHAT YUH WANT TO SEE!

LASH LARUE WESTERN



THERE HE IS, LASH!
NOW ARE YUH
CONVINCED HE'S
ALIVE?

I AM!



WELL NOW, IF
YUH WANT
HIM TO REMAIN
THAT WAY,
YUH BETTER
BRING ME
THE MAIL!

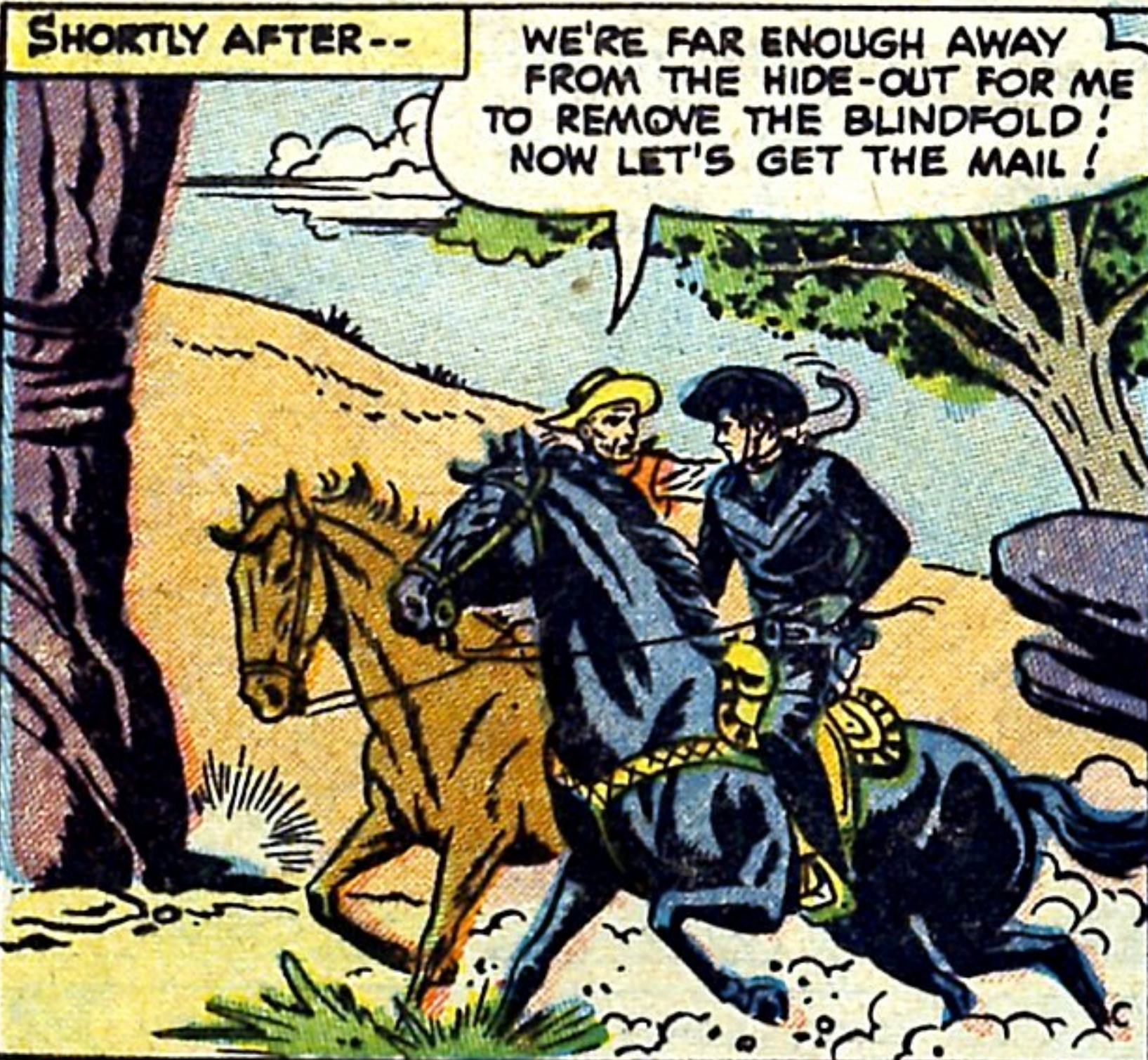
EVIDENTLY HOOD
THINKS HE'S
SPOKEN TO ME
BEFORE ABOUT
THE MAIL! THE
ONLY ONE I CAN
THINK OF WHO
LOOKS ENOUGH LIKE
ME TO FOOL THEM
WOULD BE MY TWIN
BROTHER, THE
FRONTIER PHAN-
TOM!



BUT UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT
EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED, AND,
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT, SOME
WAY TO GET THE CHIEF SAFELY
OUT OF HERE, I'LL HAVE TO
PRETEND I'M GOING FOR THE
MAIL!

OKAY, I'LL
GET THE MAIL
FOR YOU!

I'LL TAKE
HIM BACK,
BOSS!



SHORTLY AFTER--

WE'RE FAR ENOUGH AWAY
FROM THE HIDE-OUT FOR ME
TO REMOVE THE BLINDFOLD!
NOW LET'S GET THE MAIL!



MEANWHILE---

THAT'S ODD! HOOD TOLD ME
TO RIDE ALONG THE SOUTH
TRAIL AND ONE OF HIS MEN
WOULD PICK ME UP! I'VE BEEN
RIDING FER OVER A HALF HOUR
AND I'VE SEEN NO ONE!



AT THAT MOMENT, SUTTON, FOLLOWED BY LASH, IS
COMING THROUGH A NARROW PASS---

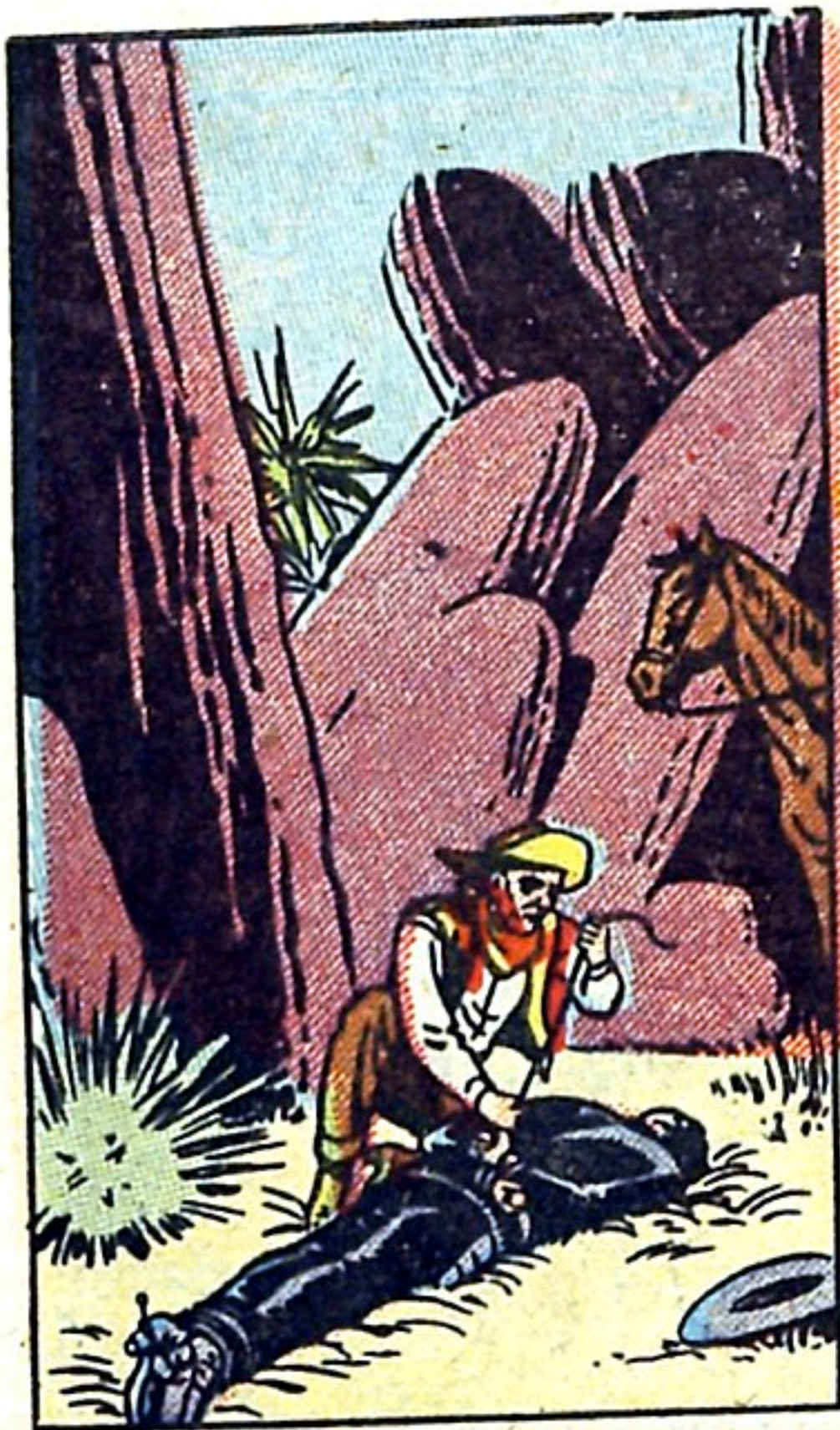
SAY, THERE'S THE
LASH WE TALKED TO
AND HE'S GOT THE
MAIL! SOMETHING
PHONY'S GOING ON,
BUT I KNOW HOW
TO HANDLE IT!

YOU
RIDE
FIRST
FROM
NOW ON,
LASH!



JUST AS YOU SAY,
SUTT---

LASH LARUE WESTERN



SECONDS LATER--

OH, THERE YUH ARE! FER A WHILE I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK HOOD GOT COLD FEET!

FOLLOW ME!



SHORTLY AFTER---

--- SO THERE ARE TWO LASH LARUE'S! WELL, SINCE THE OTHER ONE WAS BLINDFOLDED AND COULDN'T POSSIBLY FIND OUR HIDING PLACE, HE WON'T GIVE US ANY TROUBLE! BRING THE OTHER ONE IN WITH THE MAIL!

OKAY, BOSS!



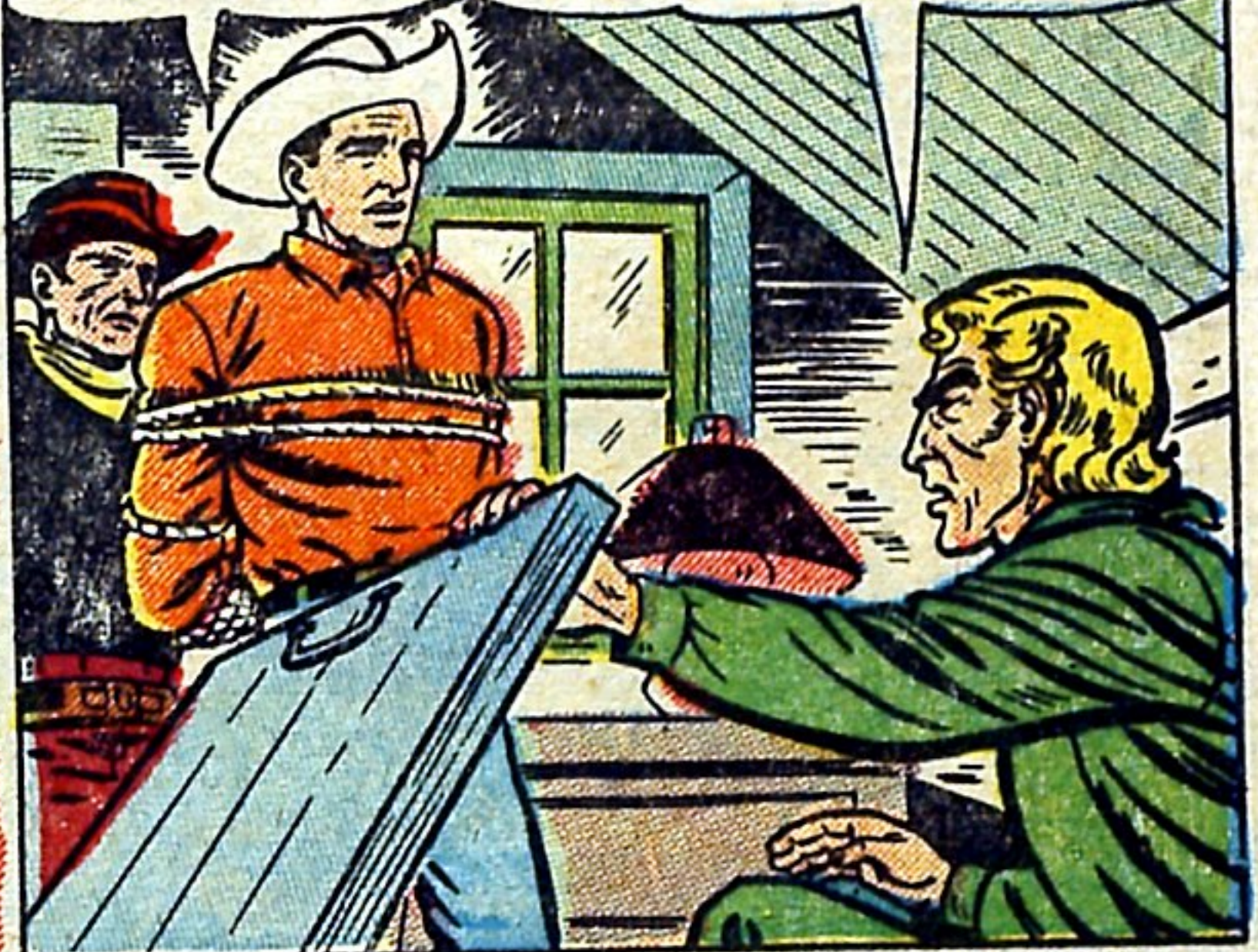
YOU'VE GOT THE MAIL! WHAT'S THE IDEA OF TYING ME?

I FIGURED YUH WOULD WANT TO SEE THE CHIEF!



WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?

EVERYTHING! COME CLOSER AND YUH'LL UNDERSTAND!



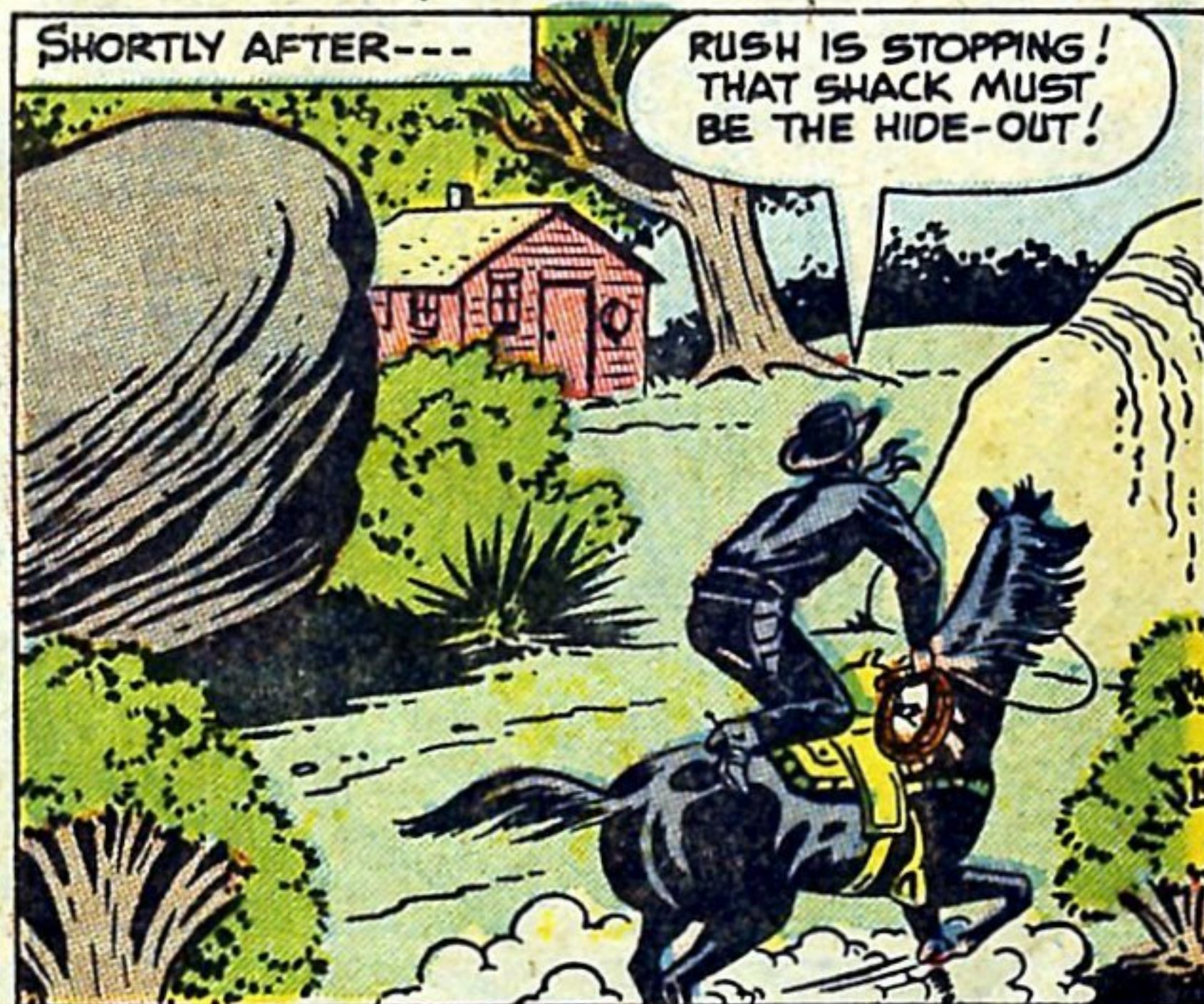
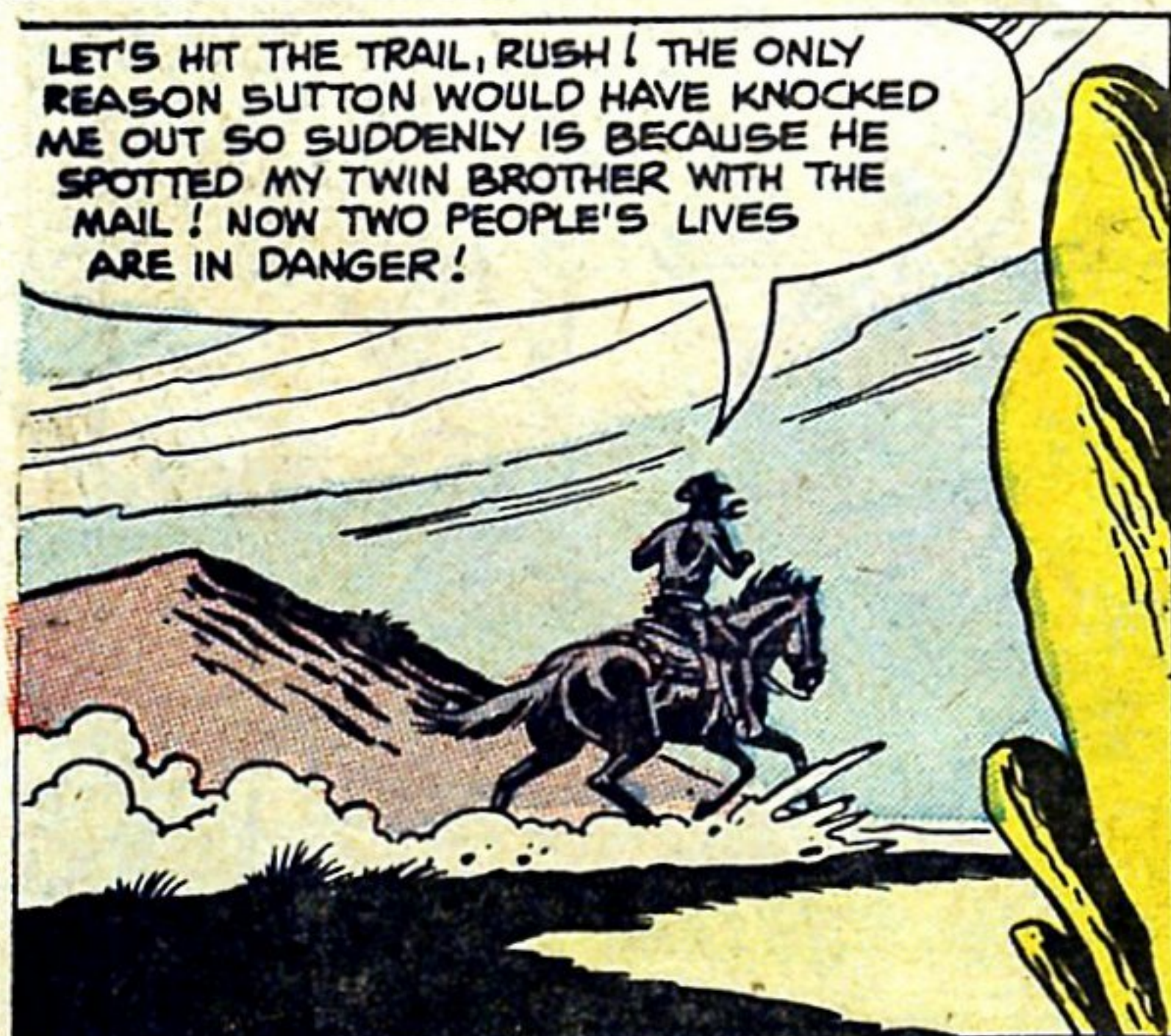
NOW DO YUH UNDERSTAND?



CLOSE THE TRAP DOOR! SUTTON! AFTER WE GO THROUGH THE MAIL AND TAKE OUT WHATEVER IS WORTHWHILE, WE'LL FIGURE OUT A GOOD WAY TO DEAL WITH THESE TWO!



LASH LARUE WESTERN





THIS WINDOW ISN'T IN VERY TIGHT!

RIP!



HOLD ON TO THIS WHIP HANDLE, RUSH! THERE'S QUITE A DROP TO THE BOTTOM!



GRIP TIGHTLY, RUSH! I'M GOING TO SLIDE DOWN THE WHIP!



SHUSH! THE WHOLE HOOD GANG IS UPSTAIRS! I'LL HAVE YOU UNTIED IN A FEW SECONDS!



MEANWHILE ---

THAT WAS A GOOD HAUL IN THAT SACK OF MAIL! NOW LET'S BRING THOSE TWO HOMBRES UP AND HANG THEM FROM THE NEAREST TREE!



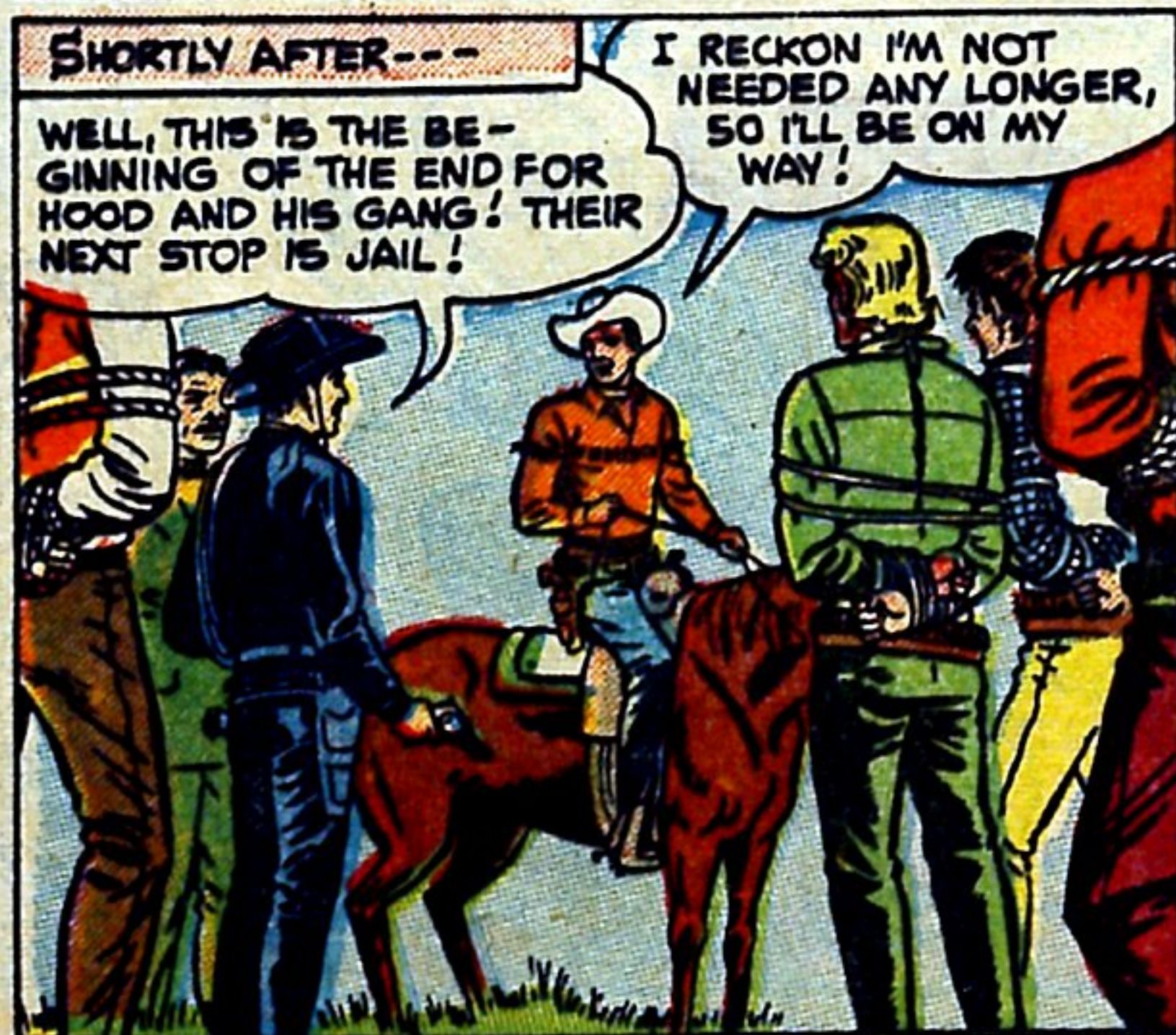
BUT AS SUTTON OPENS THE TRAP DOOR ---

HURRY, HOOD! THE OTHER LASH IS DOWN THERE AND HE'S UNTYING THE OTHER TWO!

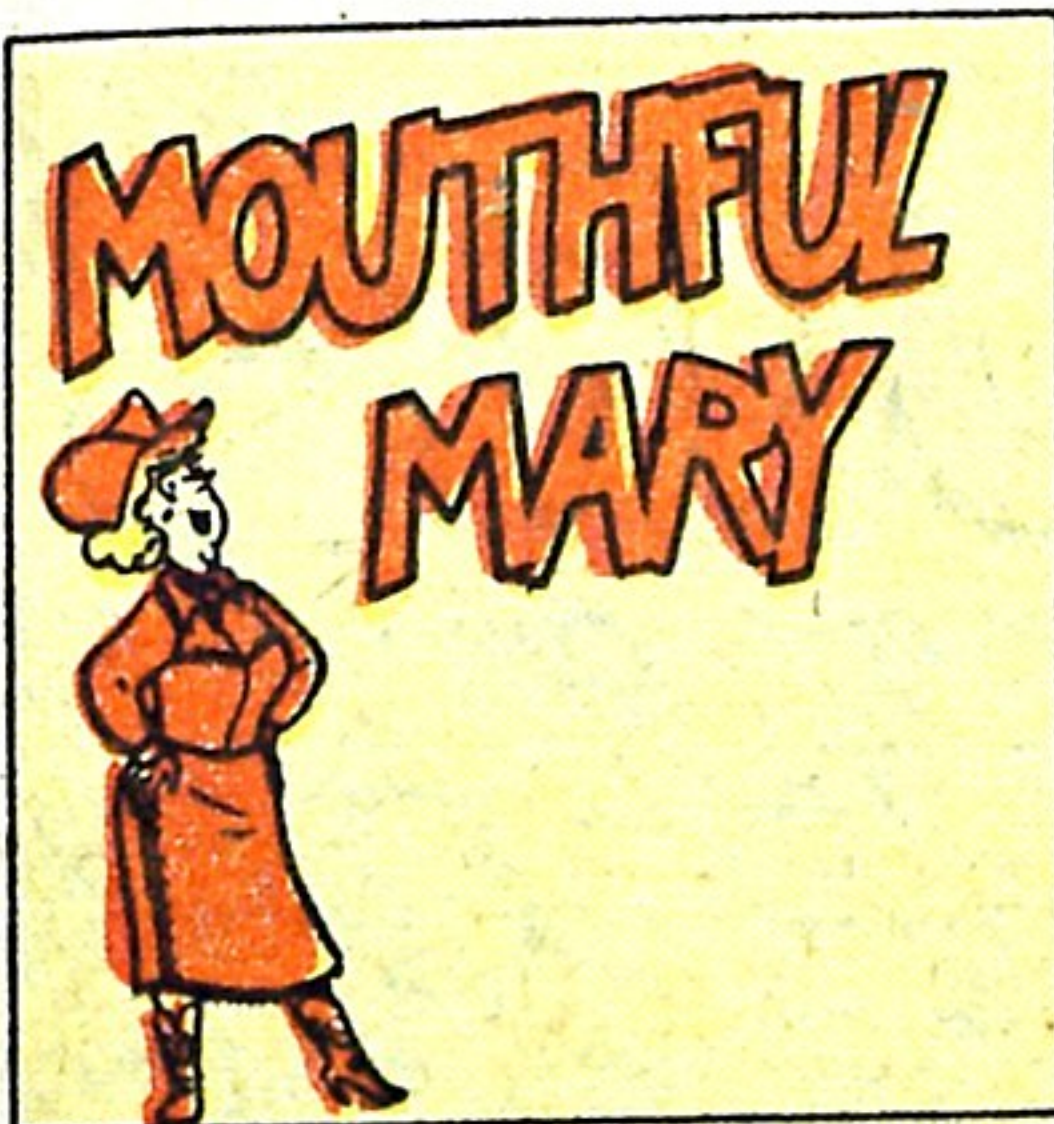


FOLLOW ME! WE'LL WIPE THEM OUT!

LASH LARUE WESTERN



WATCH FOR FURTHER ADVENTURES OF FRONTIER PHANTOM AND LASH LARUE IN LASH LARUE WESTERN... ALSO FOLLOW LASH LARUE'S ADVENTURES IN SIX-GUN HEROES!



QUIZ

SEE HOW MANY YOU CAN ANSWER CORRECTLY!
SCORE YOURSELF AS FOLLOWS:
5 CORRECT, EXCELLENT — 4 CORRECT, GOOD —
3 CORRECT, FAIR — 2 CORRECT, POOR!

① **M**ARS IS THE MYTHOLOGICAL GOD OF WAR.

TTRUE.... **F**FALSE....



② **O**NE MILE IS EQUAL TO 320 RODS.

TTRUE.... **F**FALSE....



③ **G**EORGE CLINTON WAS A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.

TTRUE.... **F**FALSE....



④ **J**UPITER IS THE SMALLEST STAR IN THE UNIVERSE.

TTRUE.... **F**FALSE....



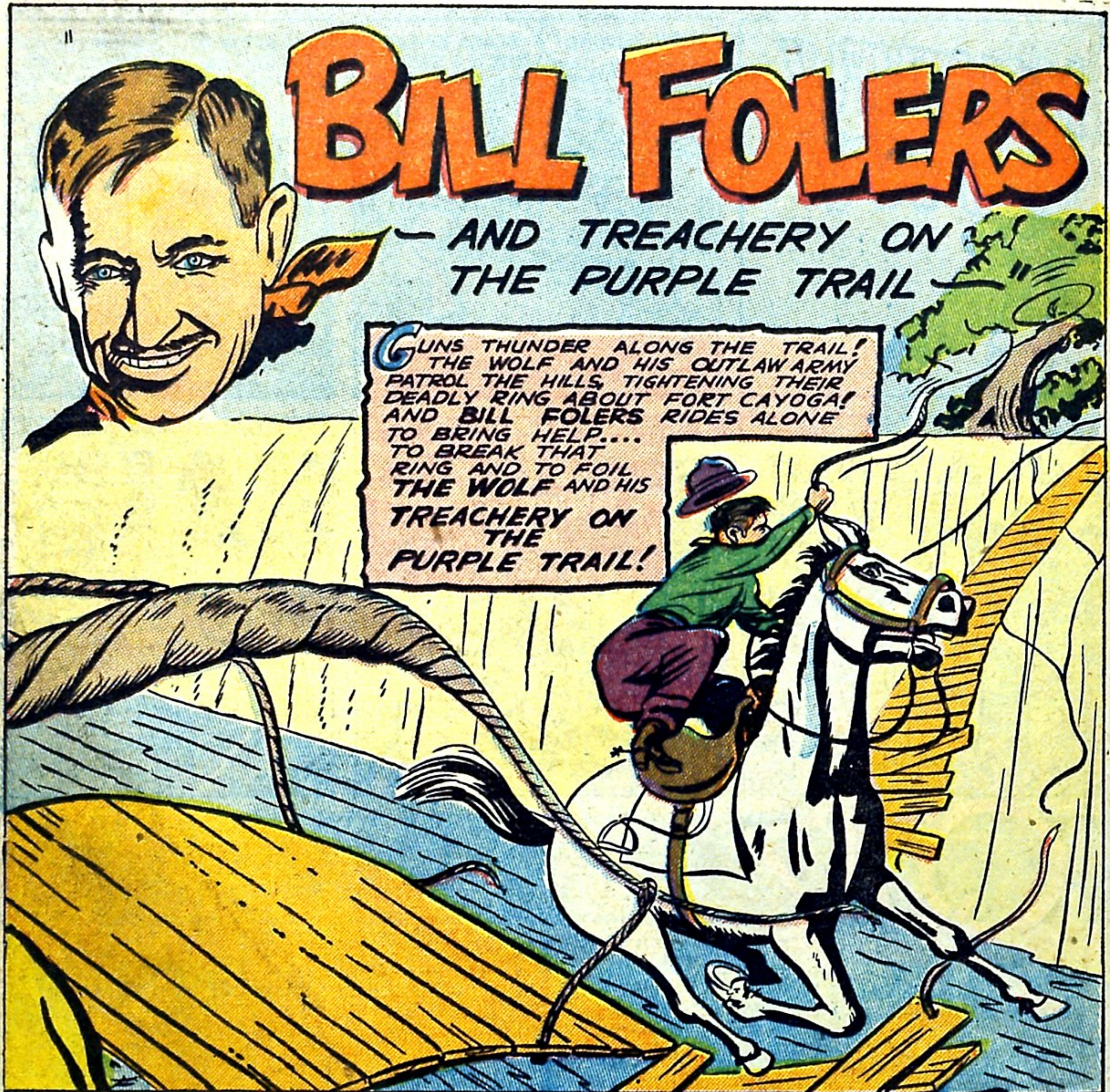
⑤ **B**LACK JACK IS THE NAME OF THE HORSE BELONGING TO THE FAMOUS COWBOY, ROCKY LANE.

TTRUE.... **F**FALSE....



ANSWERS:

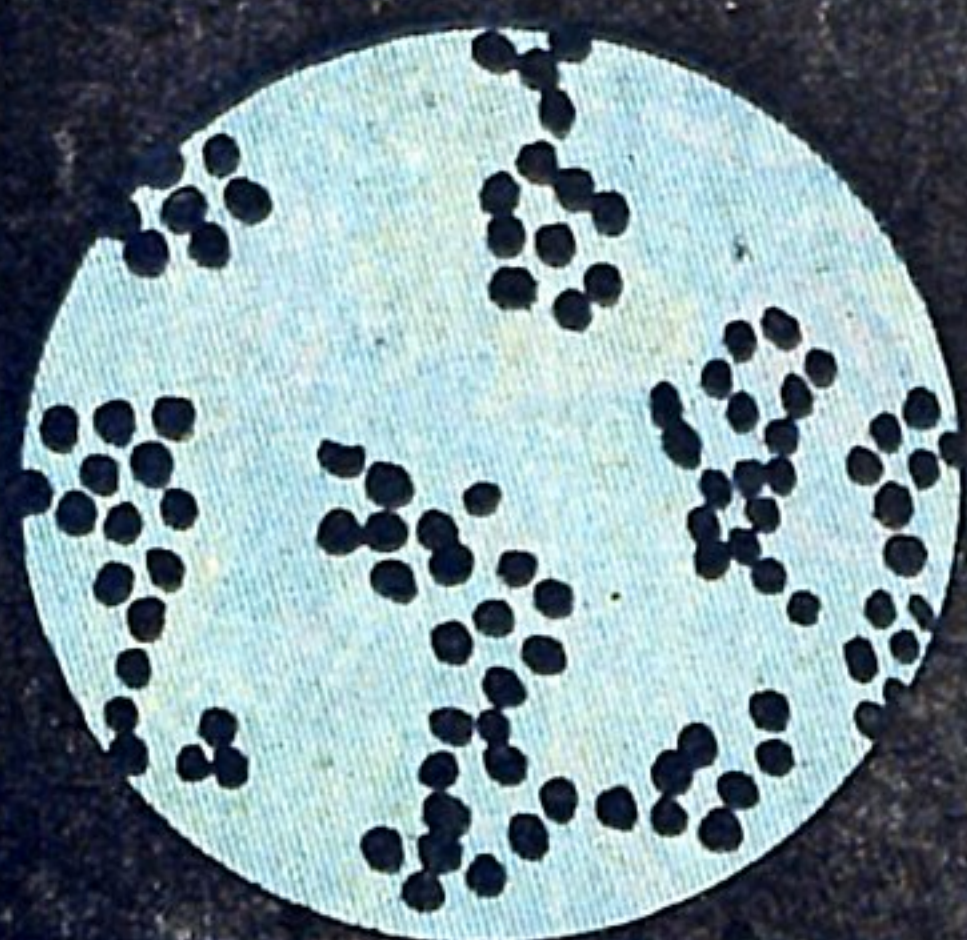
① TRUE. ② TRUE. ③ TRUE. ④ FALSE. ⑤ TRUE.
THOMAS JEFFERSON. ⑥ FALSE. JUPITER IS A PLANET.



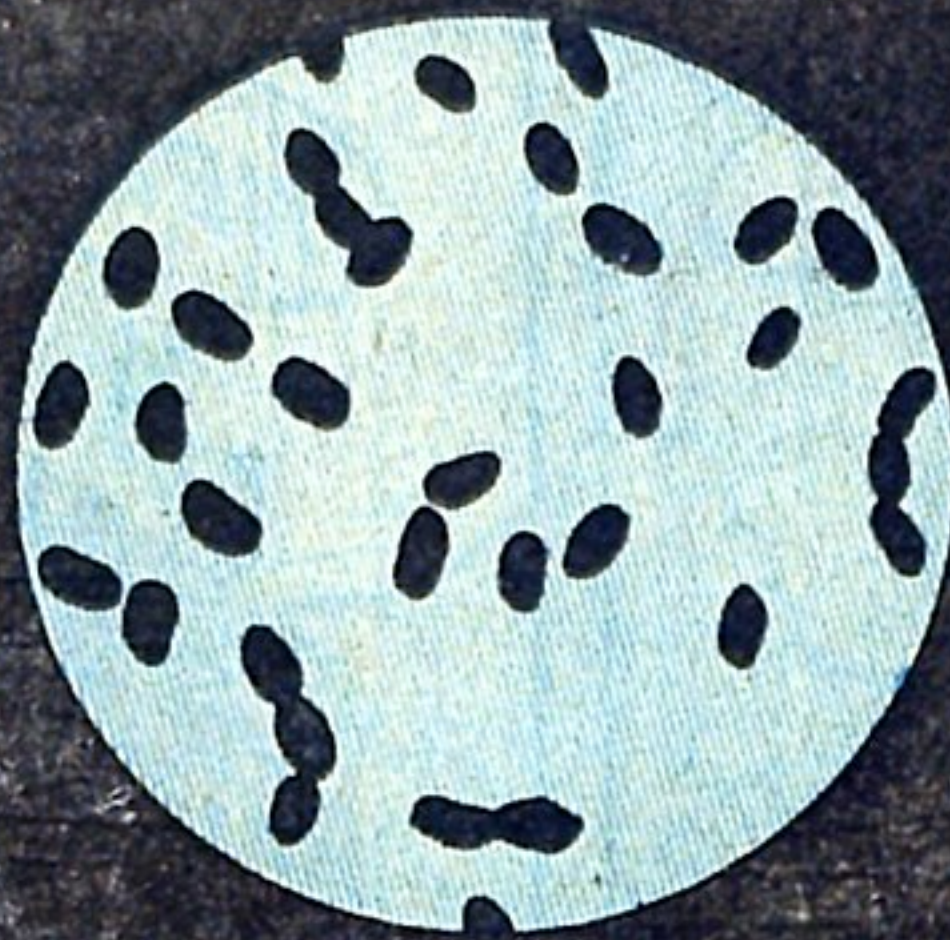
SOME MILES OUT OF FORT CAYOGA



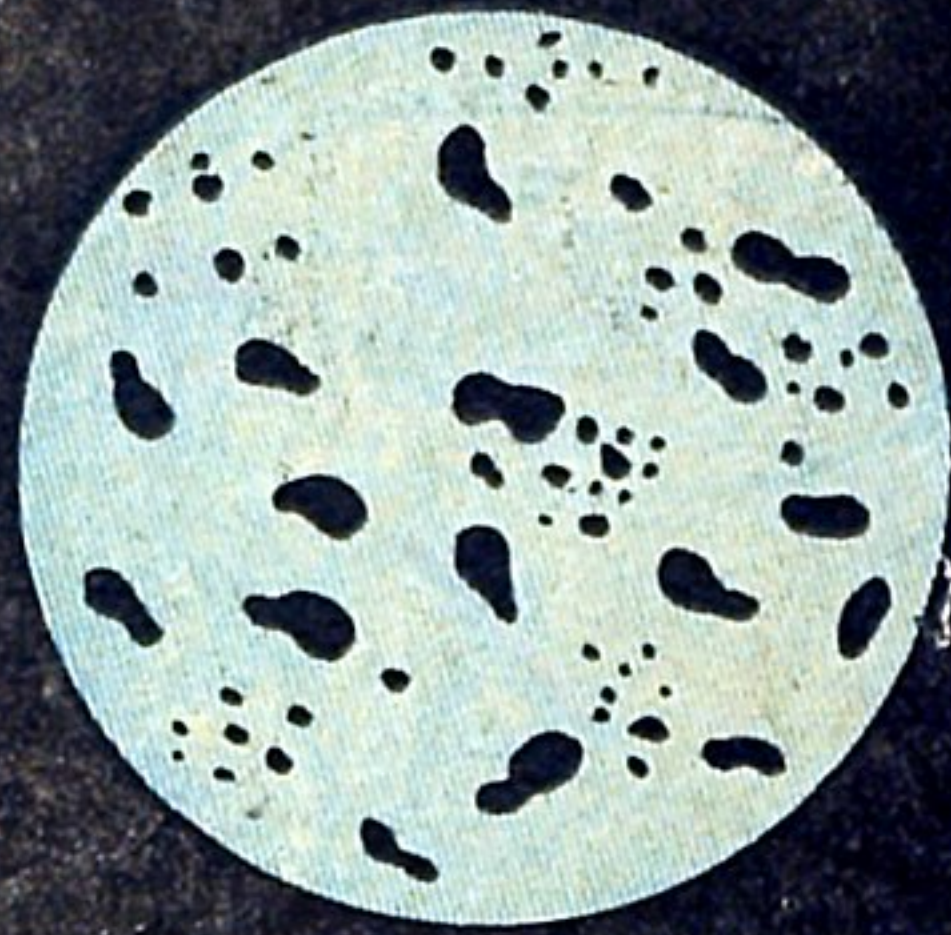
KILL THESE HAIR-DESTROYING GERMS



Staphylococcus albus



Corynebacterium acnes



Pityrosporum ovale

SAVE YOUR HAIR

Beware of your itchy scalp, hair loss, dandruff, head scales, unpleasant head odors! Nature may be warning you of approaching baldness. Heed Nature's warning! Treat your scalp to scientifically prepared Ward's Formula.

Millions of trouble-breeding bacteria, living on your sick scalp (see above) are killed on contact. Ward's Formula kills not one, but *all* 3 types of these destructive scalp germs now recognized by many medical authorities as a significant cause of baldness. Kill these germs—don't risk letting them kill your hair growth.

ENJOY THESE 5 BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY

1. Kills germs that retard normal hair growth—*on contact*
2. Removes ugly infectious dandruff—*fast*
3. Brings hair-nourishing blood to scalp—*quickly*
4. Stops annoying scalp itch and burn—*instantly*
5. Starts wonderful self-massaging action—*within 3 seconds*

Once you're bald, that's *it*, friends! There's nothing you can do. Your hair is gone forever. So are your chances of getting it back. But Ward's Formula, used as directed, keeps your sick scalp free of itchy dandruff, seborrhea, and stops the hair loss they cause. Almost at once your hair looks thicker, more attractive and alive.

We don't ask you to believe *us*. Thousands of men and women—first skeptical just as you are—have *proved* what we say. Here's our GUARANTEE. Try Ward's Formula in your own home for only 10 days. You must enjoy *all* the benefits we claim—or we return not only the price you pay—but **DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK** on return of unused portion. You are the judge. Send no money. Pay postman only \$2 plus a few cents postage, or save postage by sending \$2 with order. **ACT NOW TO SAVE YOUR HAIR. SEND COUPON TODAY!**

WARD LABORATORIES, Dept. 6607-B
19 West 44th St. New York 36, N. Y.

☐ I enclose \$2.00, send prepaid

☐ Send C.O.D., I will pay \$2.00 plus postage

Name _____

Address _____

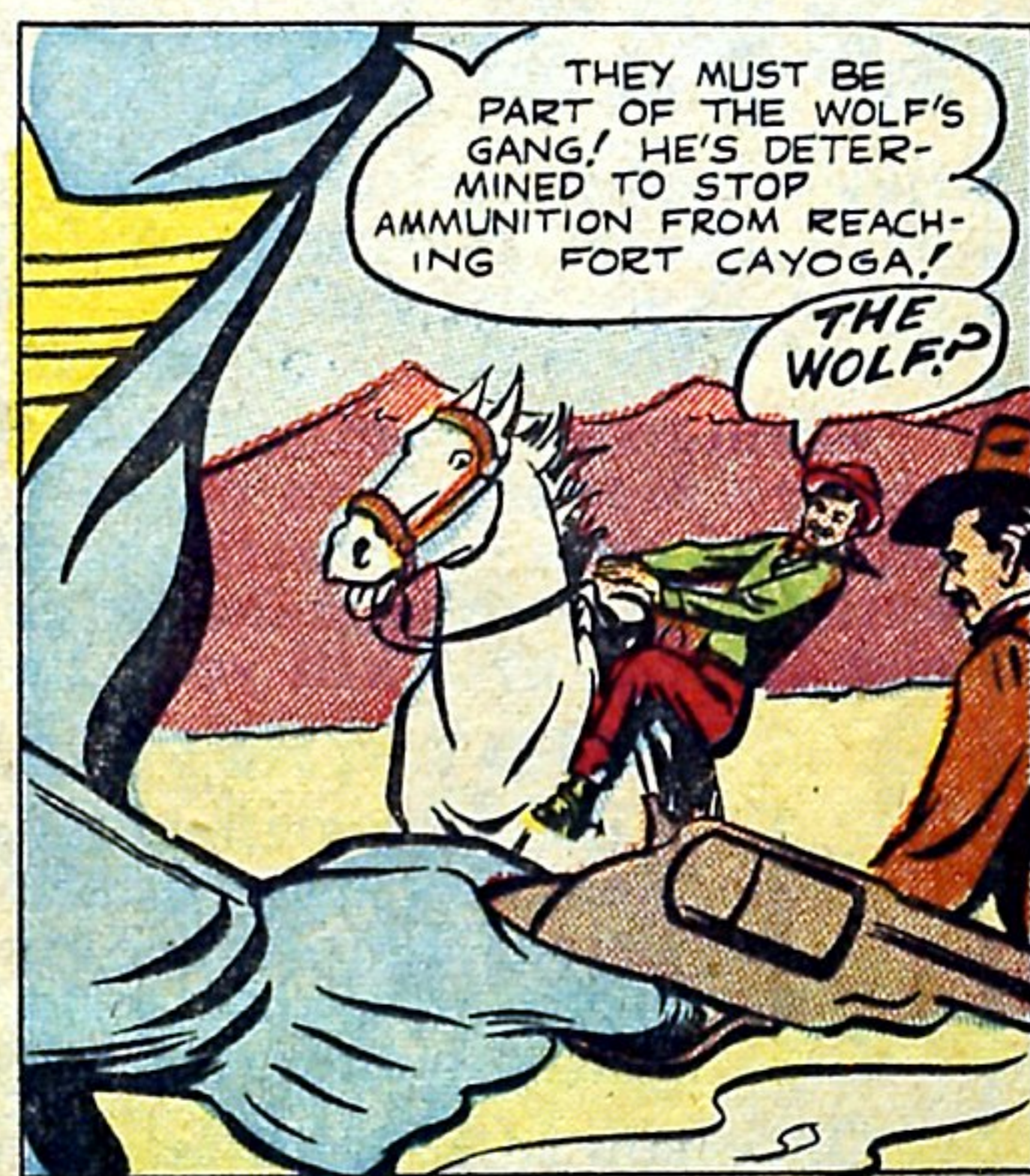
City _____

Zone _____ State _____

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

LASH La RUE WESTERN

AND A WHIRLING ROPE OPENS A CHAPTER OF BILL FOLERS AND TREACHERY ON THE PURPLE TRAIL!



LASH La RUE WESTERN

ALL THAT AFTERNOON, THE WAGON ROLLS, AND THAT NIGHT....

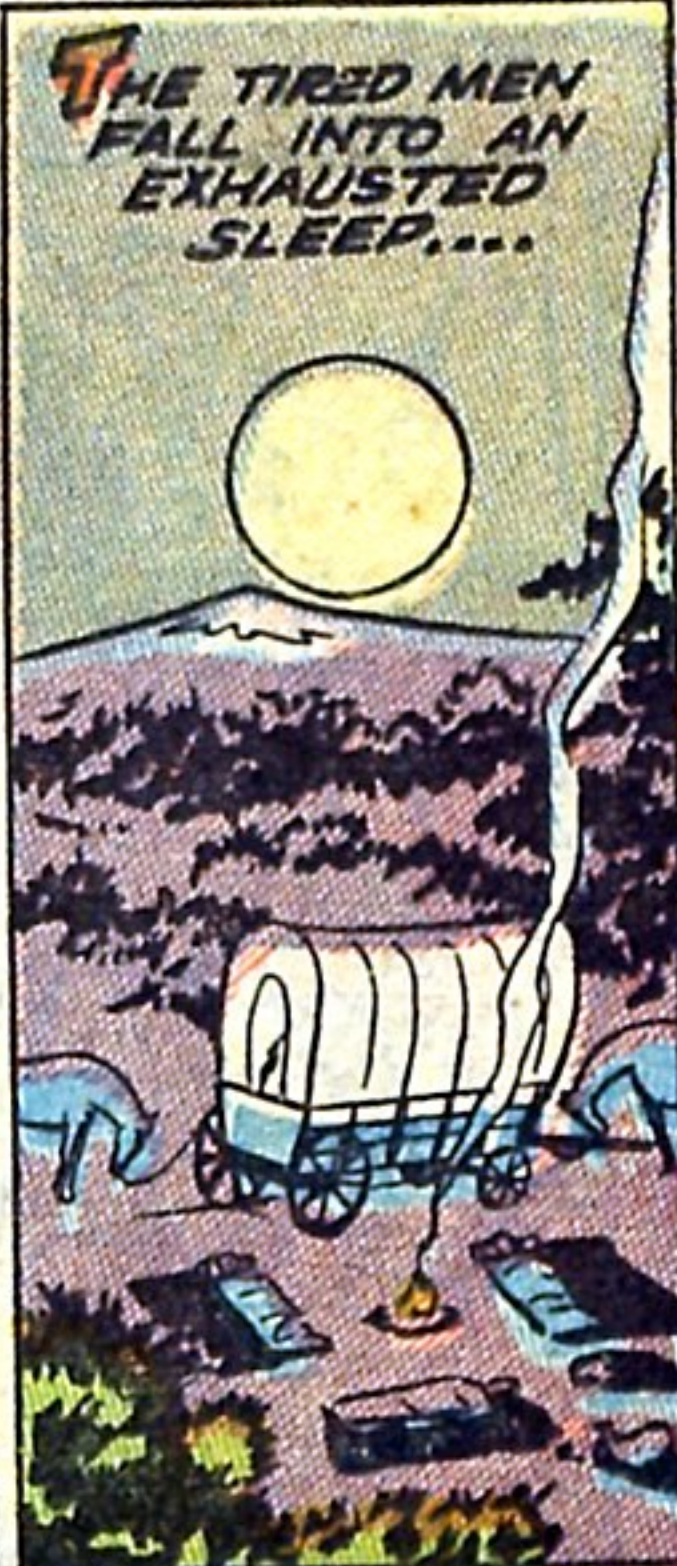


DON'T THINK THE WOLF GANG'LL FIND US IN THIS GROVE! WE'LL TAKE TURNS AT GUARD TONIGHT!

I'LL TAKE THE FIRST SHIFT, SERGEANT... YOU AND THE OTHERS GET SOME REST!

ALL RIGHT, DANTER! WE CAN SURE USE SOME SHUT-EYE!

YEP! IT SEEMS LIKE I BEEN RIDIN' THAT TRAIL FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS!



THE TIRED MEN FALL INTO AN EXHAUSTED SLEEP....

THEN, SUDDENLY...



WHAT THE--??

GUNSHOTS! WHAT'S UP?

A MOMENT LATER....



THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE ON THE HILL YONDER, SERGEANT!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK!

DANTER, WHAT IS IT?



I'M SURE I SAW SOMETHING.

WELL THERE'S NO ONE IN SIGHT! HOPE THOSE SHOTS DON'T GIVE OUR POSITION AWAY THOUGH!



YOU'RE JUMPY, DANTER! MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE BETTER STAND OUT YOUR GUARD!

NAW, I'LL STICK WITH IT, SERGEANT! AND I'LL TRY TO BE MORE CAREFUL!

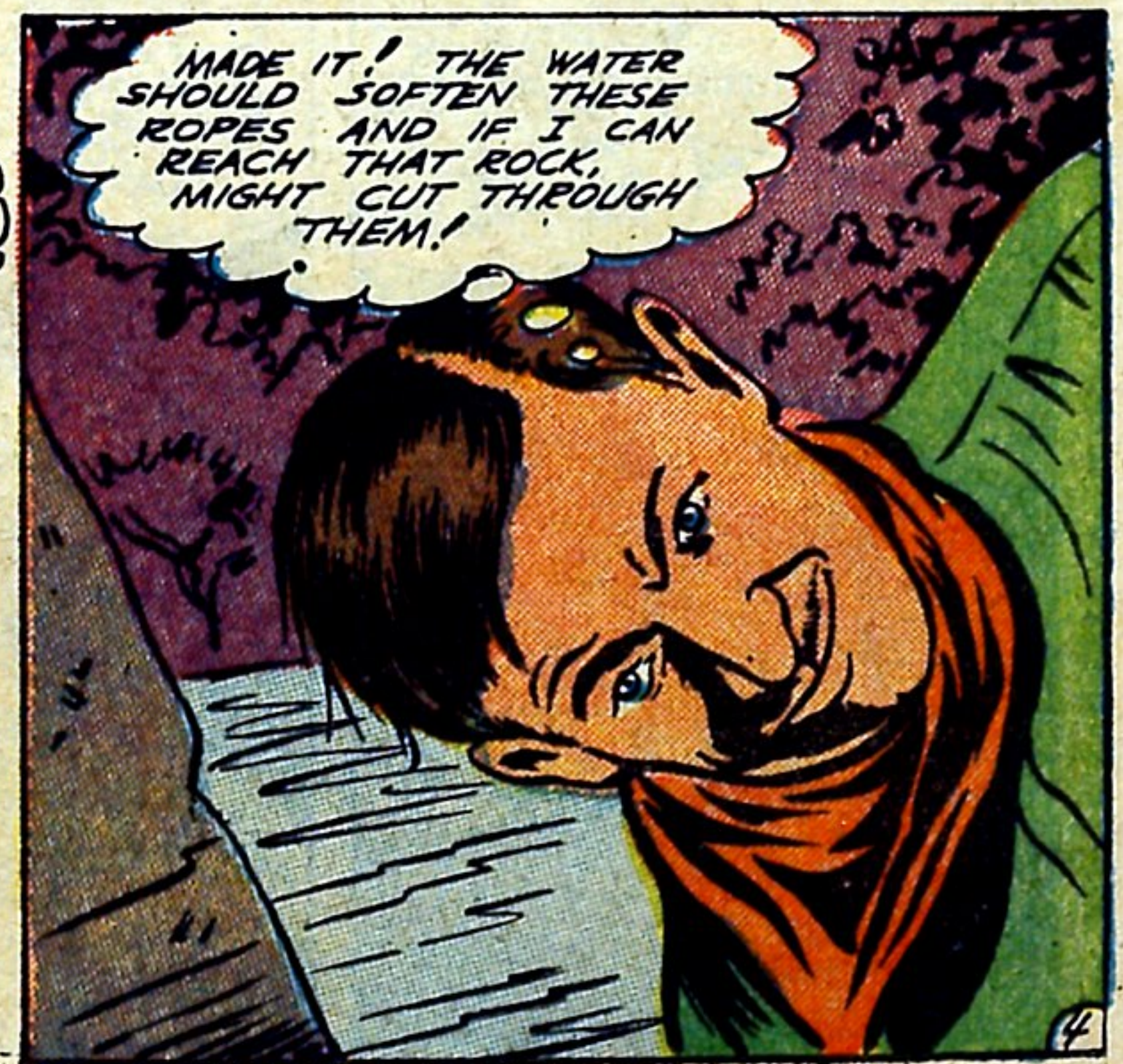
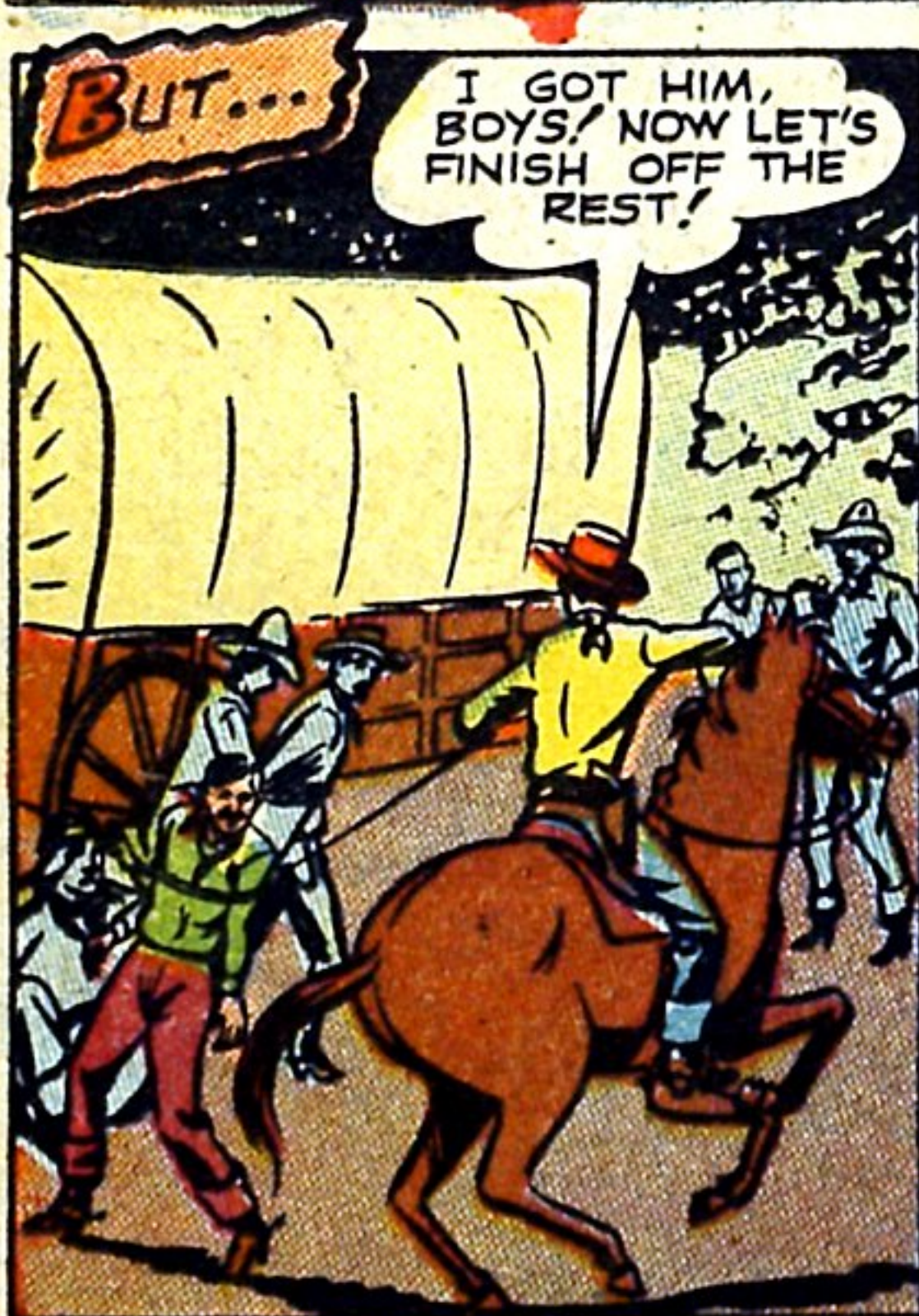
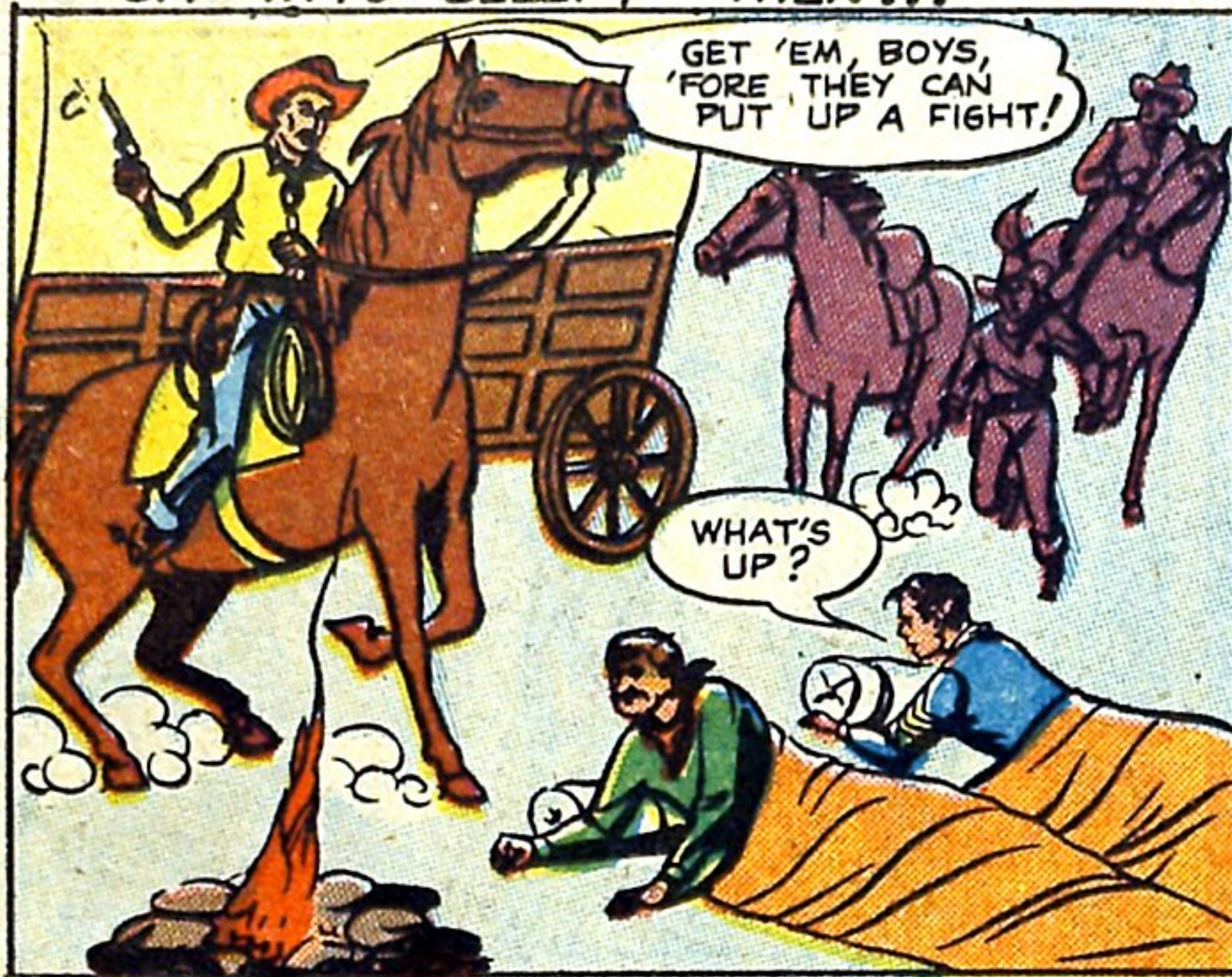
BUT AS THE MEN BED DOWN AGAIN...



MAYBE DANTER'S JUST NERVOUS! YET HE WAS MIGHTY QUICK TO MAKE NOISE! ANYHOW, WON'T HURT ME TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN A WHILE!

LASH La RUE WESTERN

BUT IN SPITE OF HIS EFFORTS, BILL DRIFTS OFF INTO SLEEP! THEN...



LASH La RUE WESTERN



LASH La RUE WESTERN



FRESH TROOPS ARE COMING, BUT WE CAN'T HOLD WITHOUT THAT AMMUNITION! WE COULD GET MORE FROM THE ARMY DEPOT, BUT THE WOLF'S WATCHIN' FOR THAT NOW!



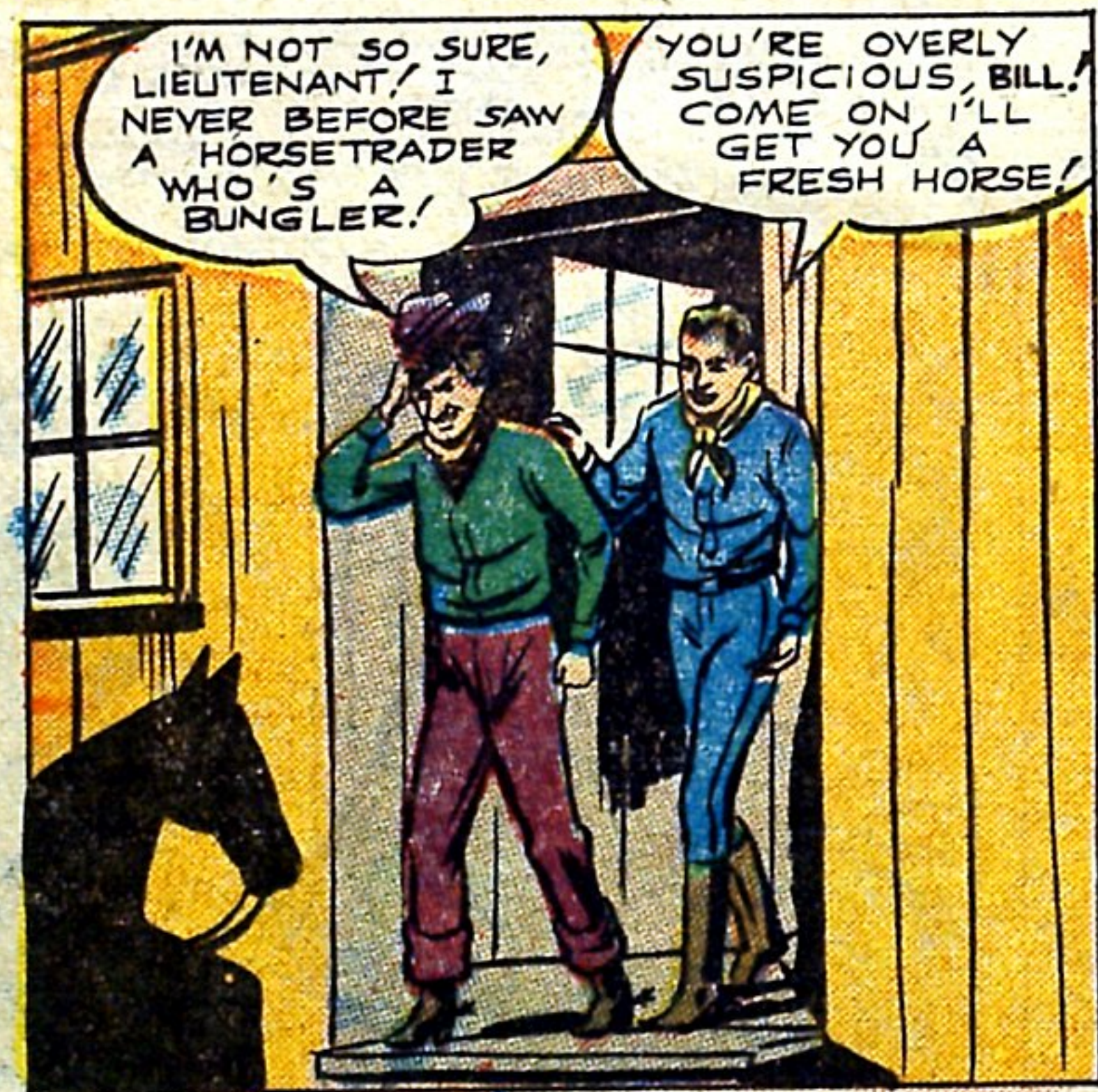
BILL, THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN COULD GET BACK TO THAT DEPOT NOW? WOULD YOU DO IT?

I RECKON I COULD TRY, LIEUTENANT, BUT-- WAIT A MINUTE!



THOUGHT I SENSED SOMEONE AT THIS WINDOW! NOW DANTER'S RIDING OUT OF THE FORT! YOU TRUST HIM, LIEUTENANT?

DANTER'S A BUNGLER AT TIMES, BILL, BUT HE'S HARMLESS!



I'M NOT SO SURE, LIEUTENANT! I NEVER BEFORE SAW A HORSETRADER WHO'S A BUNGLER!

YOU'RE OVERLY SUSPICIOUS, BILL! COME ON, I'LL GET YOU A FRESH HORSE!



A LITTLE LATER...

GOOD LUCK, BILL! WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!

HOURS OF HARD AND UNEVENTFUL RIDING FOLLOW. THEN SUDDENLY THE CRACK OF A RIFLE!



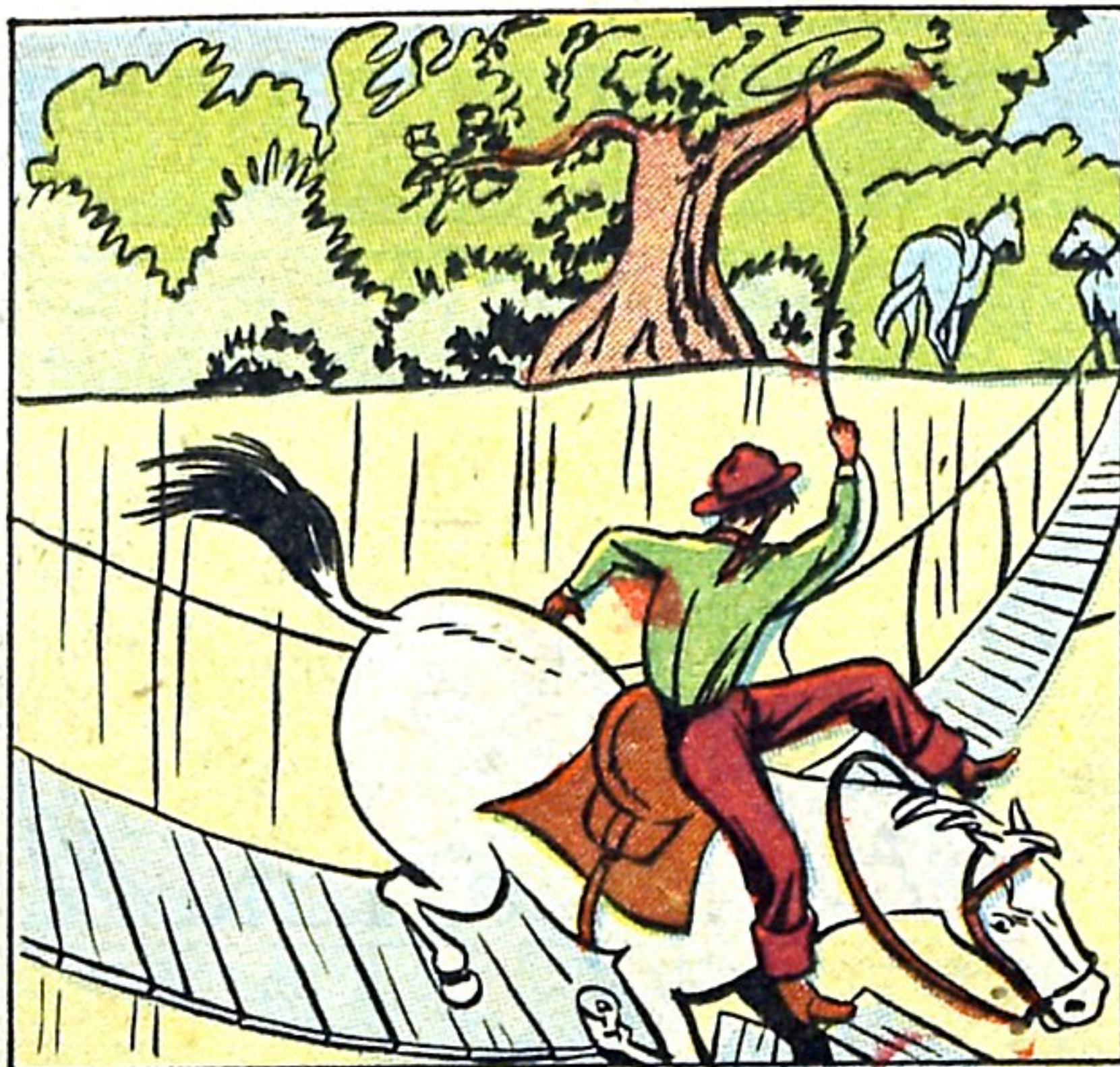
EVIDENTLY THEY'RE NOT WATCHING THIS BACK TRAIL! WE -- OH-OH!



MISSED! AND MY GUN'S JAMMED! HE'S GETTIN' AWAY!

NOT IF I CAN CUT THROUGH THIS ROPE, HE ISN'T!

LASH La RUE WESTERN



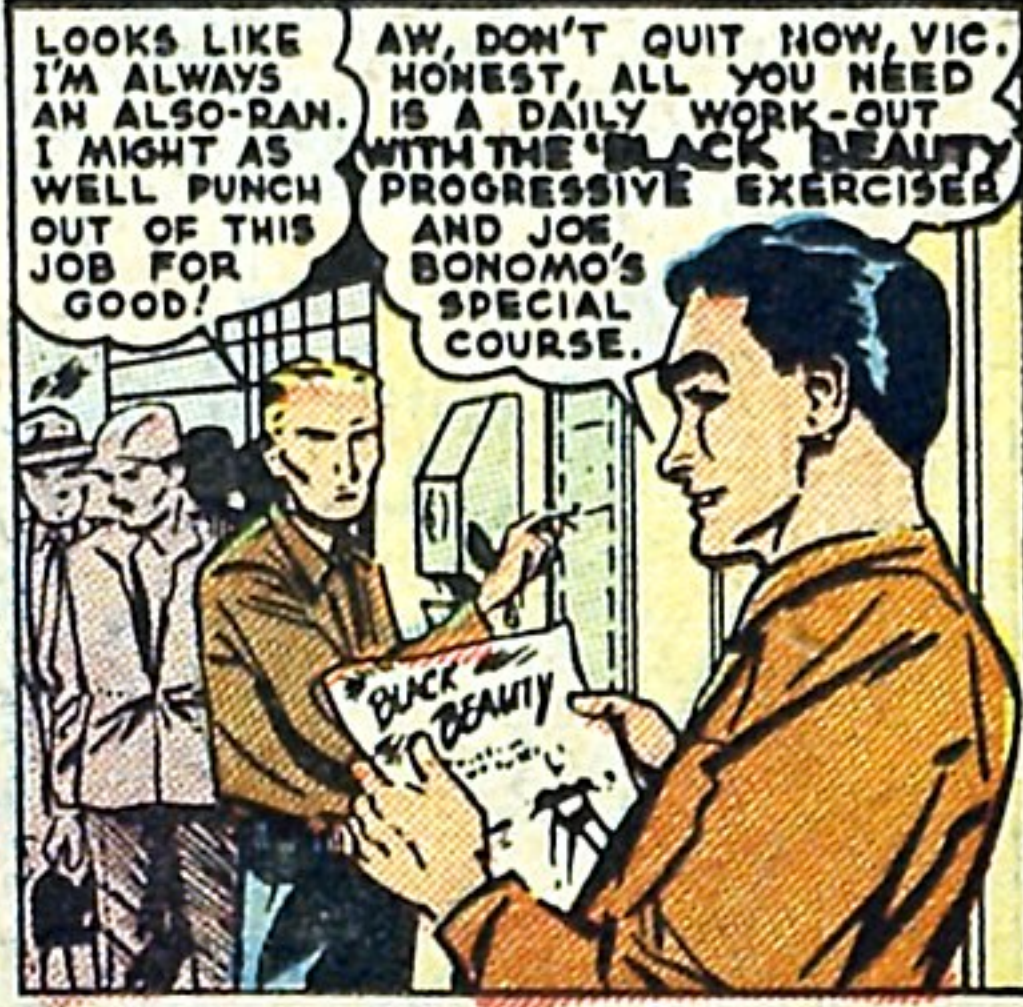
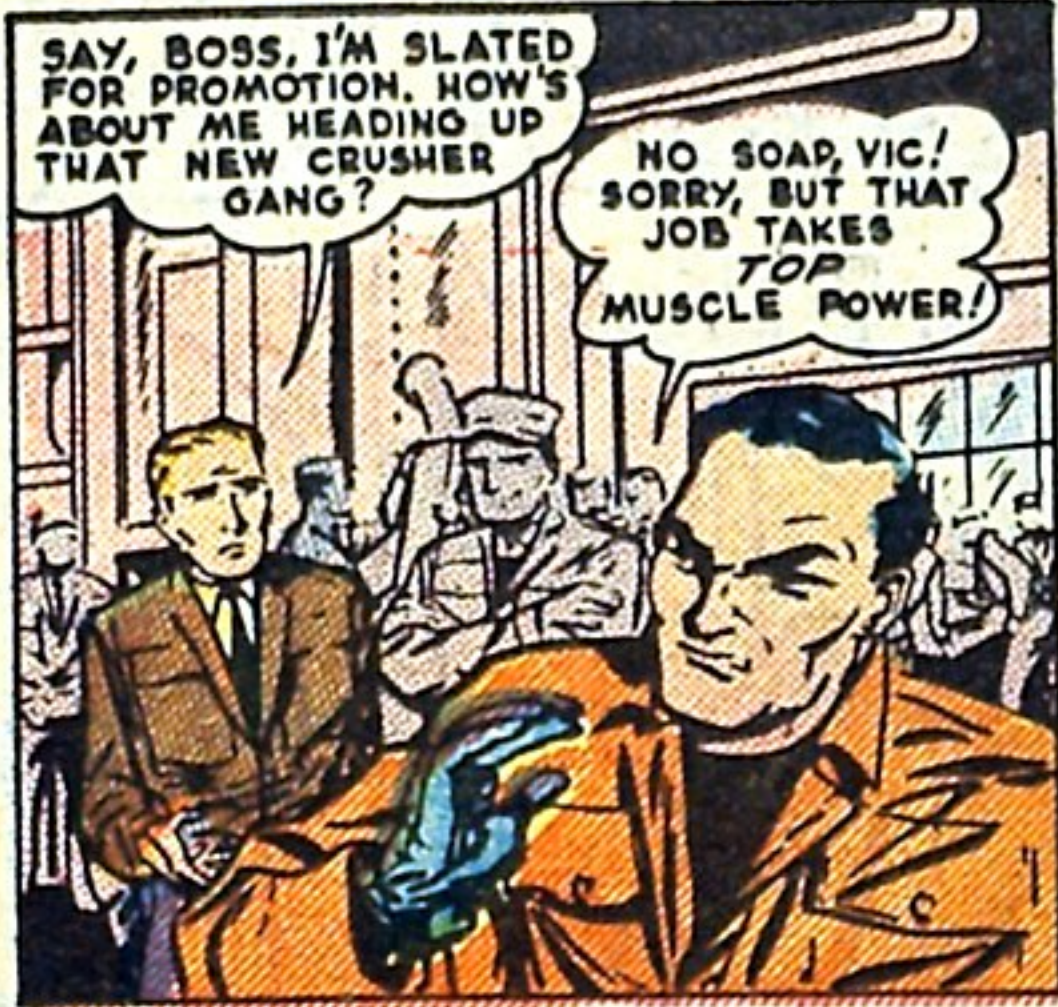
SOME HOURS LATER, ON THE OUTLAW'S HORSE....



LATER IN THE OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE DEPOT..... AFTER BILL HAS TOLD HIS STORY...



How 'BLACK BEAUTY' TURNS AN ALSO-RAN into VIDEO VIC!



DEVELOP REAL POWER

INCREASE YOUR STRENGTH • BUILD YOUR BODY

JOE BONOMO
World's Strongman,
Hercules of the
Seven, International
Authority on
Health & Strength.



BECOME AN ALL-AROUND WINNER

WIN FRIENDS • GAIN POPULARITY • BE A SUCCESS

JOE BONOMO SHOWS YOU HOW!
Why grope in the dark wishing? Why let other guys run off with your best girl... steal that promotion from you... take away that position on the team? Now, in the amazing new 'Black-Beauty' 5-Cable Progressive Exerciser and Joe Bonomo's personal instruction 'Power-Plus' method you, too, can become an all-around winner!

SCIENTIFIC! AND HOW!
Wait 'til you see what fast progress you make to real power with 'Black Beauty' and Joe Bonomo. They're with you 'til you're "TOPS" in the field.

Bernarr Macfadden says:

"As an instructor in muscle building, you should stand at the head of the list. Many of your pupils already attest to your ability in building better bodies. I can recommend you most highly. Here's wishing you all possible success!"

Jack Dempsey says:

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A FEW MINUTES A DAY

LASH La RUE WESTERN

MUCH LATER AT FORT CAYOGA....





BUZZARD'S TRAIL

DOC KENWORTH, town doctor of High-dog, put down his glass of milk. The rest of the men around the bar in the Slabside Saloon looked up. Doc was glancing out the window and down the street. And the look on his weather-beaten face was familiar.

"Bud Kitchner!" murmured Kever Todson.

"Keep your shirts on," Doc said. "Maybe Jim Blazer's not in town this mornin'!"

"He sure is!" Bill Cordon said.

Doc walked away from the bar.

"Got to attend to business, boys," he said.

"Just how did it start, Doc?" Bill Cordon asked. "I mean, how come two old friends hate each other like Bud and Jim?"

"There were three of them," Doc said. "Three pards. Old Kit Trig, Bud Kitchner and Jim Blazer. Old Kit owned a spread, and when he died he left it to Bud and Jim. Jim was named first and Kit's will said Jim was to get the lion's share, includin' the spread. Bud just got a few thousand. I figger Kit thought Bud was too fast and loose to hold onto more. And he was right. Bud spent his money like water."

"Thunderation!" Kever exclaimed. "Here comes Jim now, down the other side of the street!"

Doc doubled round the back way to his office, which was just a few steps down the street. He grabbed his medical kit and stepped into the street, already deserted except for Bud and Jim. Passersby had ducked into doors and alleyways. Doc walked to the middle of the road.

Bud Kitchner, tall and rangy and hard-bitten, with a hawk's look to his face, let his hand drop toward one of his hog-legs.

"Easy, Bud!" Doc called out. He flung back the flap of his long, Prince Albert coat. A tin-star blazed suddenly, for Doc, besides being a medico, was also Deputy Sheriff.

"I'm not aimin' to kill anybody, Doc!" Bud said lazily.

"Not today or any other day!" Jim Blazer said hotly from the other side of the street. The two ex-friends sauntered toward each other, tense. Doc patted one of his hog-legs with a free hand.

"Keep your blood pressure down, boys," Doc said. "You'll live longer."

Jim Blazer turned a sour eye on Doc.

"You leave town for a couple of days and take that tin-star with you, Doc. I'll settle this business once and for all!"

"Well, now, that's just what I'm not doin'!" Doc said. "I'm bound to keep the peace around here, and . . ."

"Stop jawin', Doc" Bud said. "This is an affair between old pards and none of yours. Pard!" he spat sarcastically and turned to Jim. "Livin' high these days, Jim? Doin' pretty well with the spread?"

"If you hadn't been such a worthless, good-for-nothin' and showed some sense, Kit might have split it even between us!" Jim said.

"But as it is, you've grabbed it for good!" Bud said angrily. His hands twitched toward his guns.

"Uh-huh!" admonished Doc gently.

Bud snorted and passed on. He got on his cayuse which was tethered to a post near the end of the street and rode out of town.

Jim walked on, after telling Doc he had some business at the bank. Then he, too, rode out of town. That was the last anyone saw of him, for at least a week.

Jim Blazer's disappearance had the town buzzing. He'd been expected in town the day after he'd quarrelled with Bud but had failed to show up. When a week had passed, Doc, both in medical and legal capacity rode out to Jim's spread. The house was empty. Just as Doc finished his inspection and decided that the place had been uninhabited for as long as Jim had been missing. Bud Kitchner rode up the trail.

"The boys in town told me Jim disappeared," he said. "Too bad!" Bud laughed, looked round the ranchyard and yawned. "Yeah, too bad. What's the law on my movin' in, Doc. Kit's will said I'd inherit if Jim died. You figger he's dead?"

Doc considered a minute.

"Just because a man's disappeared, don't mean he's dead," Doc said dryly. "At least, not at first!" He looked keenly at Bud. "I guess you can move in, Bud, since you're the legal heir—supposin' Jim's dead." Doc scratched his chin and grinned. "'Course, if Jim shows up alive, he'll boot you out!"

"How about Jim's account at the bank in Highdog?"

"That's a different matter," Doc replied. "The law generally states that you've got to have a corpus delicti to prove death. In other words, you've got to have a corpse. Or, if you haven't got the body, you have to wait seven years before you can inherit the ranch and money."

"Seven years!" Bud exclaimed in dismay.

"If a man stays disappeared seven years, he's legally dead in most states, includin' this one!" Doc said firmly. "But not until seven years are up!" Doc got on his cayuse. "That's how long you'll have to wait, if Jim stays disappeared. So don't sign your name to anything of Jim's, cause it won't be worth a coot's ear." He left Bud and rode off.

When Doc got back to his office, he went into his back room to get some tobacco and light a pipe. He glanced carelessly over the flame of the match through the window, off toward the north horizon. Then something up there caught his eye. He stared for an instant and jumped.

Doc didn't wait, after that. He hurried over to the Slabside Saloon. Bill Cordon and Keever Todson were sitting in front, whittling.

"I've got a hunch about Jim Blazer," Doc said. His two friends went wide-eyed. "And I want you two galoots to come with me out to Glassy Butte."

"What for?" Bill Cordon asked, "Glassy's just a high rock. You'd have to be a horsefly to work up an interest in it. Besides, there's no way up to the top." He paused. Then sighed, "Okay, I'll be a horsefly."

Keever Todson nodded assent. He followed Bill and Doc to their cayuses. Then Doc led the way out to Glassy Butte. He took a round-about-route.

"You tryin' to avoid somebody?" Bill asked, finally.

"That's right," Doc said. "Providin' somebody shows up."

They left their cayuses a couple of thousand feet from the butte, hidden in deep underbrush. At the foot of the butte, they stared up at the shiny, vitrified surface that gave the butte its glassy name. It looked unscalable as it always had. Bill Cordon shook his head, but Doc circled round it. He came back, smiling.

"I always thought you could get to the top of the butte, if you looked hard enough," Doc said. He led the way. There was a small, narrow, jagged cleft, ridged with rough, natural ledges, going up. It was hidden by vines that grew up most of the butte's face.

"What you expect to find up there?" Keever asked Doc, as he struggled up the cleft behind him.

Doc grunted.

They emerged into a typical-butte-top hollow, with gently sloping walls. It was filled with rough stones and shards splintered from the body of the butte itself. Then Doc uttered an exclamation. He pointed.

"Jim Blazer!" Bill Corner said. "He—he's dead!"

"Dead as a doornail!" Doc said, performing his medical duty by his Sheriff's badge. He cupped his ear, held up a hand for silence. "Shhhh. Somebody's climbin' up the cleft."

They got behind a big boulder and watched. A man climbed out of the cleft mouth and went directly over to Jim Blazer's body.

"Reach!" Doc called softly.

Bud Kitchner straightened and whirled. He didn't have time to draw. Doc shot the straps of the holsters clean through. They fell.

After that, Bud didn't resist. He went quietly, after first having helped Keever, Doc and Bill to erect a cairn of stones over Jim Blazer. At the base of the butte, they tied Bud on his cayuse, got their own and rode into town at a leisurely pace.

"Bud killed Jim to get the ranch and money," Doc said as they rode. "No doubt of that. Then he dragged Jim's body up Glassy Butte. He had a good reason. Bud knew murder can't be proved until you find a corpse." He looked at Bud. Bud nodded helplessly.

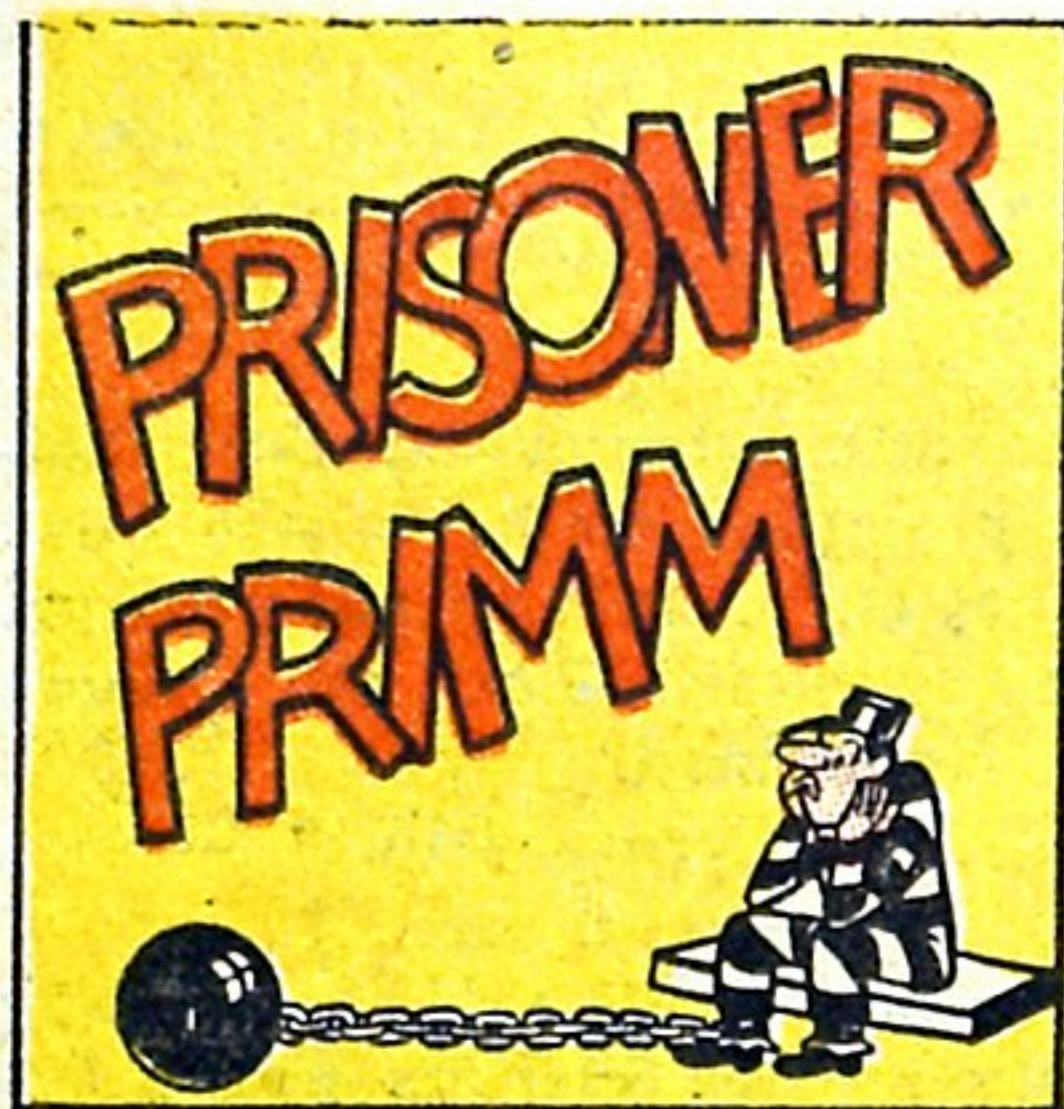
"But Bud forgot he needed a body to prove death, so the heir, namely Bud, could inherit," Doc continued. "I told him that. So Bud went back to the butte. He planned to drag Jim's body down and leave it lying where it could be found. After all, there wasn't much anybody could do to connect him with the murder. That is, until now, eh, Bud?" Doc asked genially.

"Guess not," Bud said.

"BUT how in tarnation did you figger Jim's body was atop the butte?" Keever asked. "If we hadn't found it, we'd never have spotted Bud coming back to a body only he knew where to find."

"That was a hunch—but a good one," Doc said. "I was lookin' through my back room window, and I saw two buzzards circlin' over the butte. It could have been a brother buzzard they were lookin' down at. Or it might have been Jim Blazer. And it was!"

THE END



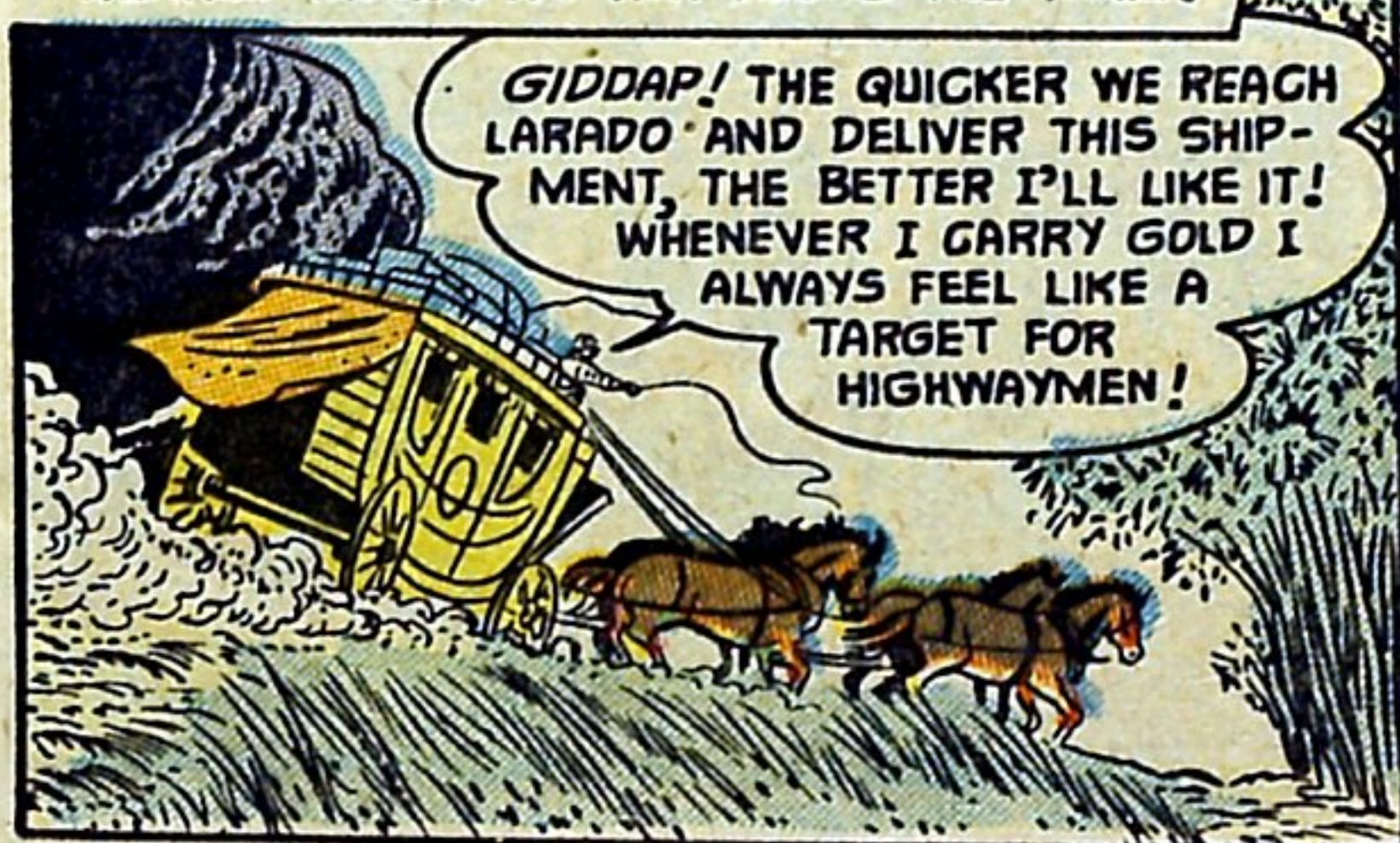


LASH LARUE

in
**TARGET for
HIGHWAYMEN!**

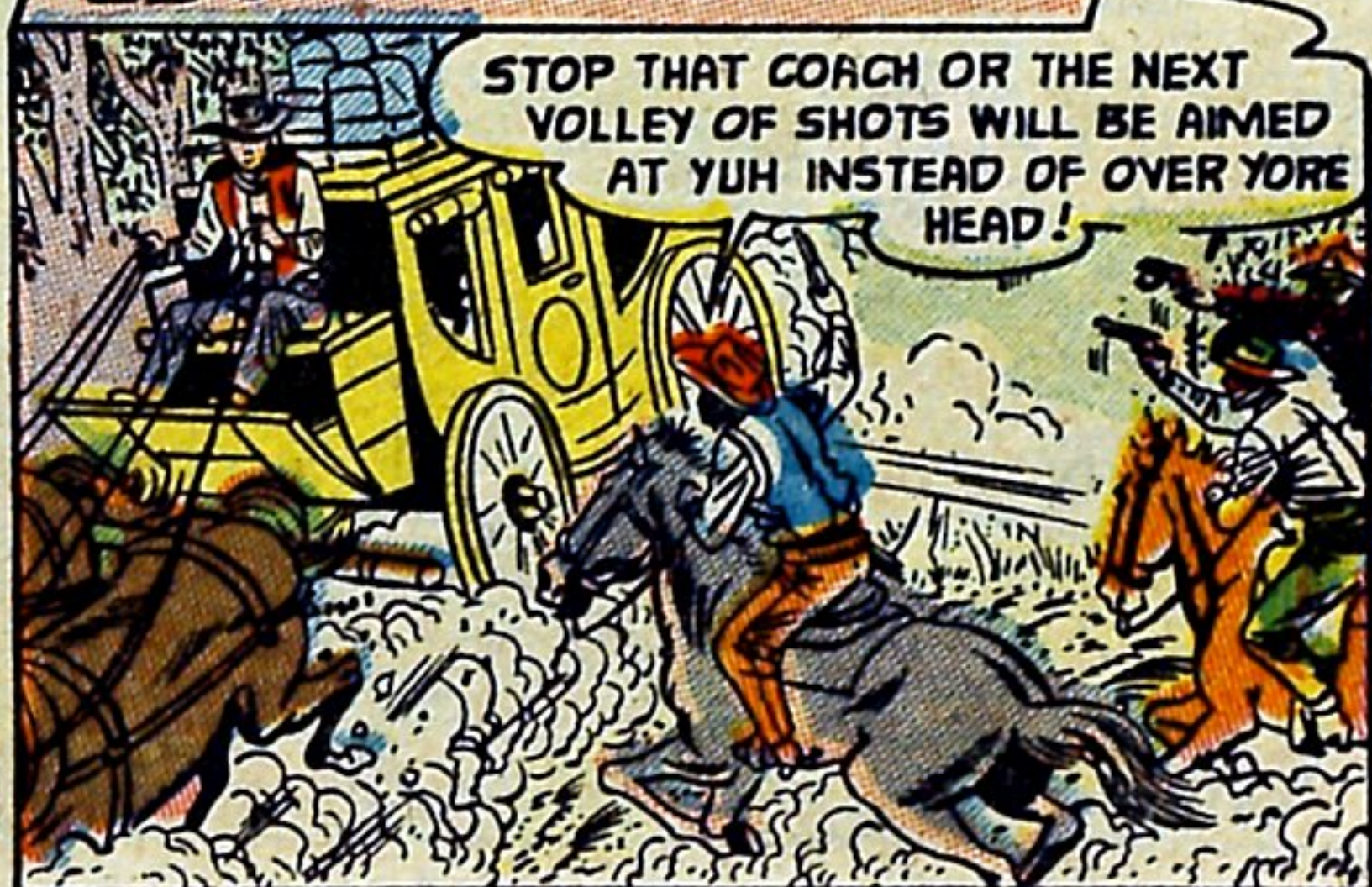
THE LAW IS ALWAYS THE INDIRECT TARGET OF BANDITS! FOR WHEN THEY COMMIT A CRIME, THEY ARE ATTACKING THE LAW--- BUT IN THIS CASE, THE TWO-GUN KING OF THE BULLWHIP, ROVING MARSHAL, LASH LARUE, BECOMES A DIRECT TARGET!

IN THE HILLS OUTSIDE OF LARADO A STAGECOACH CARRYING A LARGE SHIPMENT OF GOLD BULLION, WEARILY MAKES ITS WAY ALONG THE TRAIL!



GIDDAP! THE QUICKER WE REACH LARADO AND DELIVER THIS SHIPMENT, THE BETTER I'LL LIKE IT! WHENEVER I CARRY GOLD I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE A TARGET FOR HIGHWAYMEN!

AND SPEAKING OF HIGHWAYMEN...

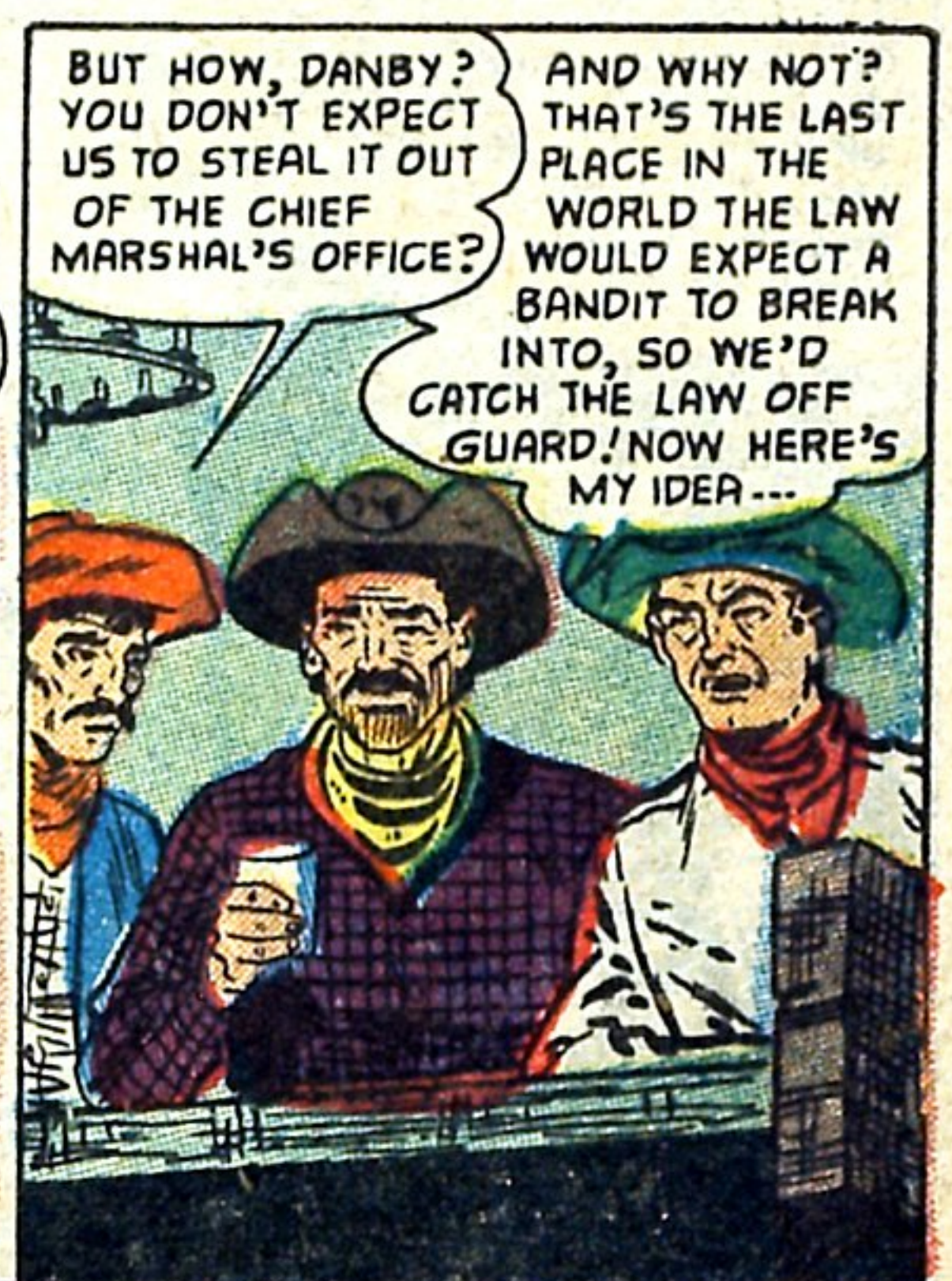


STOP THAT COACH OR THE NEXT VOLLEY OF SHOTS WILL BE AIMED AT YUH INSTEAD OF OVER YORE HEAD!

LASH LARUE WESTERN



LASH LARUE WESTERN



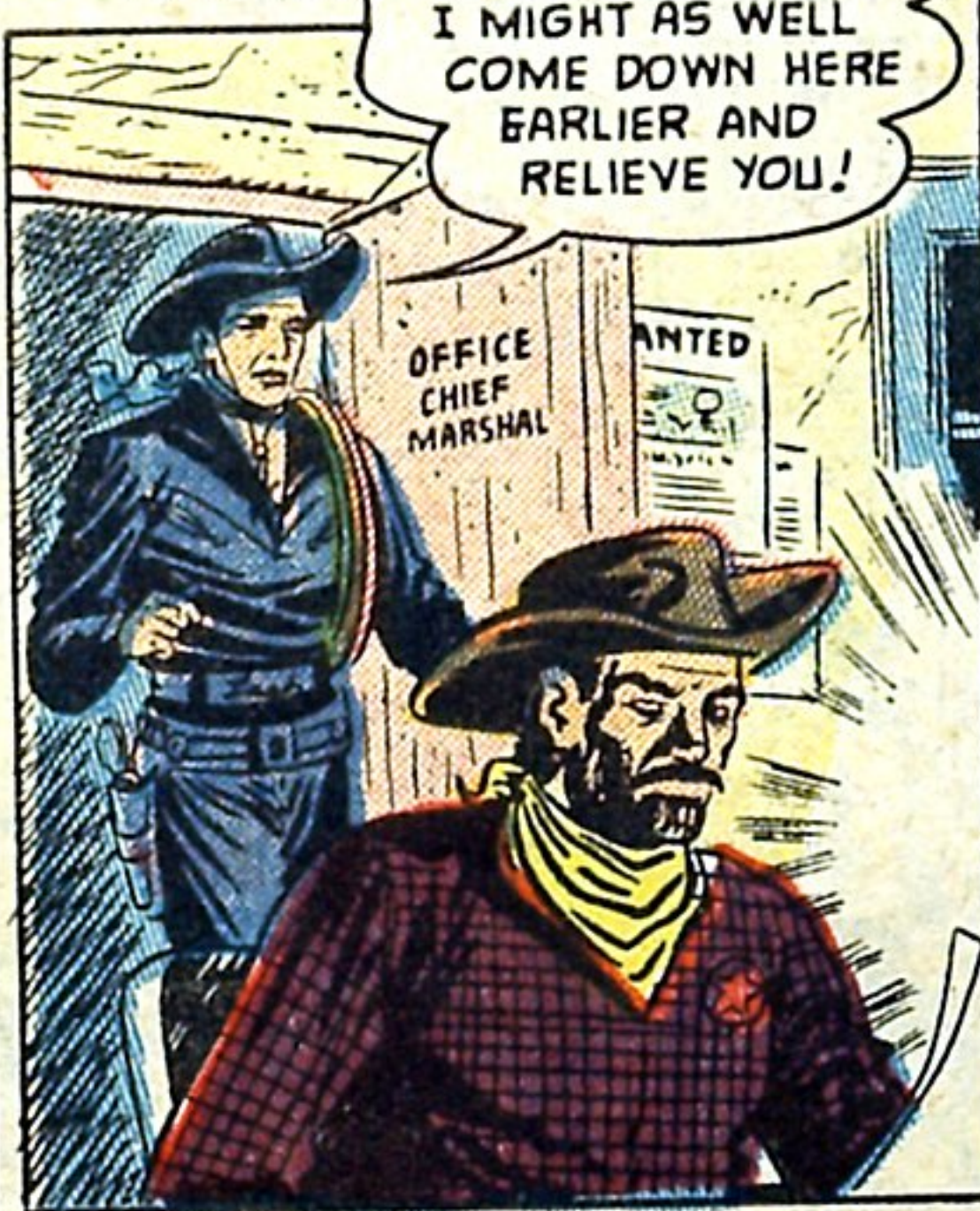
LASH LARUE WESTERN

I RECKON I'D BETTER BORROW THE CHIEF MARSHAL'S BADGE, JUST IN CASE ANYONE SHOWS UP BEFORE YUH RETURN! IT'LL MAKE EXPLAINING THE CHIEF'S ABSENCE MUCH EASIER!



SHORTLY AFTER...

I COULDN'T SLEEP, CHIEF, SO I FIGURED I MIGHT AS WELL COME DOWN HERE EARLIER AND RELIEVE YOU!



OH, EXCUSE ME, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE CHIEF!

OH, OH! THIS IS THE HOMBRE WHO SCARED US OFF IN THE HILLS! I HAVE TO GET RID OF HIM PRONTO!

I AM THE CHIEF! THE NEW CHIEF, THAT IS!



BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REGULAR CHIEF? HE WAS HERE AWHILE AGO!

HE WAS ORDERED TO REPORT IMMEDIATELY TO THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION FOR A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT! I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO TAKE OVER UNTIL HE GETS BACK!



WELL, IN THAT CASE, I'LL RELIEVE YOU! MY NAME'S LASH LARUE, I'M A ROVING MARSHAL!

GOOD! I'VE GOT AN URGENT ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU! THERE'S TALK OF SOME CATTLE RUSTLERS ATTACKING THE BAR ZERO RANCH TONIGHT! I WANT YUH TO GO OUT THERE AND INVESTIGATE!

YES, SIR! WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE RUSTLERS?



LOOK, LARUE, I DON'T KNOW HOW THE OTHER CHIEF RAN THIS OFFICE, BUT WHILE I'M IN CHARGE, YUH'LL HAVE TO LEARN NOT TO QUESTION YORE SUPERIOR! YORE JOB IS TO TAKE ORDERS AND CARRY THEM OUT!

YES, SIR! LET'S HIT THE TRAIL, RUSH!

CHIEF IV



BUT WHEN LASH REACHES THE BAR ZERO SPREAD...

SAY! I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THIS BEFORE! THE BAR ZERO BREEDS SHEEP, NOT CATTLE! I'D BETTER HEAD BACK TO THE NEW CHIEF AND MAKE SURE HE MEANT THE BAR ZERO RANCH!





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LASH LARUE WESTERN

MEANWHILE ...

C'MON, THE QUICKER WE'RE OUT OF HYAR, THE BETTER I'LL LIKE IT!

ALL THIS GOLD WILL SLOW US DOWN, AND I WANT TO BE OUT OF LARADO BEFORE THE MORNING!

WHAT'S THE RUSH? YUH SENT LARUE TO THE OPPOSITE END OF LARADO AND TOLD HIM TO WAIT THERE TILL MORNING, SO WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

JUST THEN...

THAT LOOKS LIKE THE NEW CHIEF CLIMBING INTO THAT WAGON, BUT I COULD BE WRONG!

I HOPE I'M WRONG SINCE IT WOULD MEAN THAT SOMETHING DRASTIC HAPPENED TO THE REAL CHIEF! I'LL JUST TRAIL THE WAGON AND SEE WHAT THAT PHONY CHIEF IS PLANNING TO DO WITH THE GOLD! HE COULD BE JUST MOVING IT TO ANOTHER SAFE PLACE, SO I DON'T WANT TO ACCUSE HIM OF ANYTHING UNTIL I'M SURE!

THE TRAIL LEADS TO A SHACK IN THE WOODS.

WHY'D WE HAVE TO COME BACK HYAR, DANBY?

JUST TO GIVE US FURTHER PROTECTION IF WE RUN INTO TROUBLE! NOW GO INSIDE AND GET THE MARSHAL AND DUMP HIM IN THE BACK OF THE WAGON!

WE CAN USE HIM AS A HOSTAGE IN CASE THE LAW SHOULD CATCH UP TO US!

MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! THEY BUSHWACKED THE CHIEF SO THEY COULD CLEAN OUT THE GOLD-- BUT THANK GOODNESS HE'S STILL ALIVE!

THEY'RE HEADING BACK THIS WAY! I BETTER STAY OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL I FORMULATE MY PLANS!

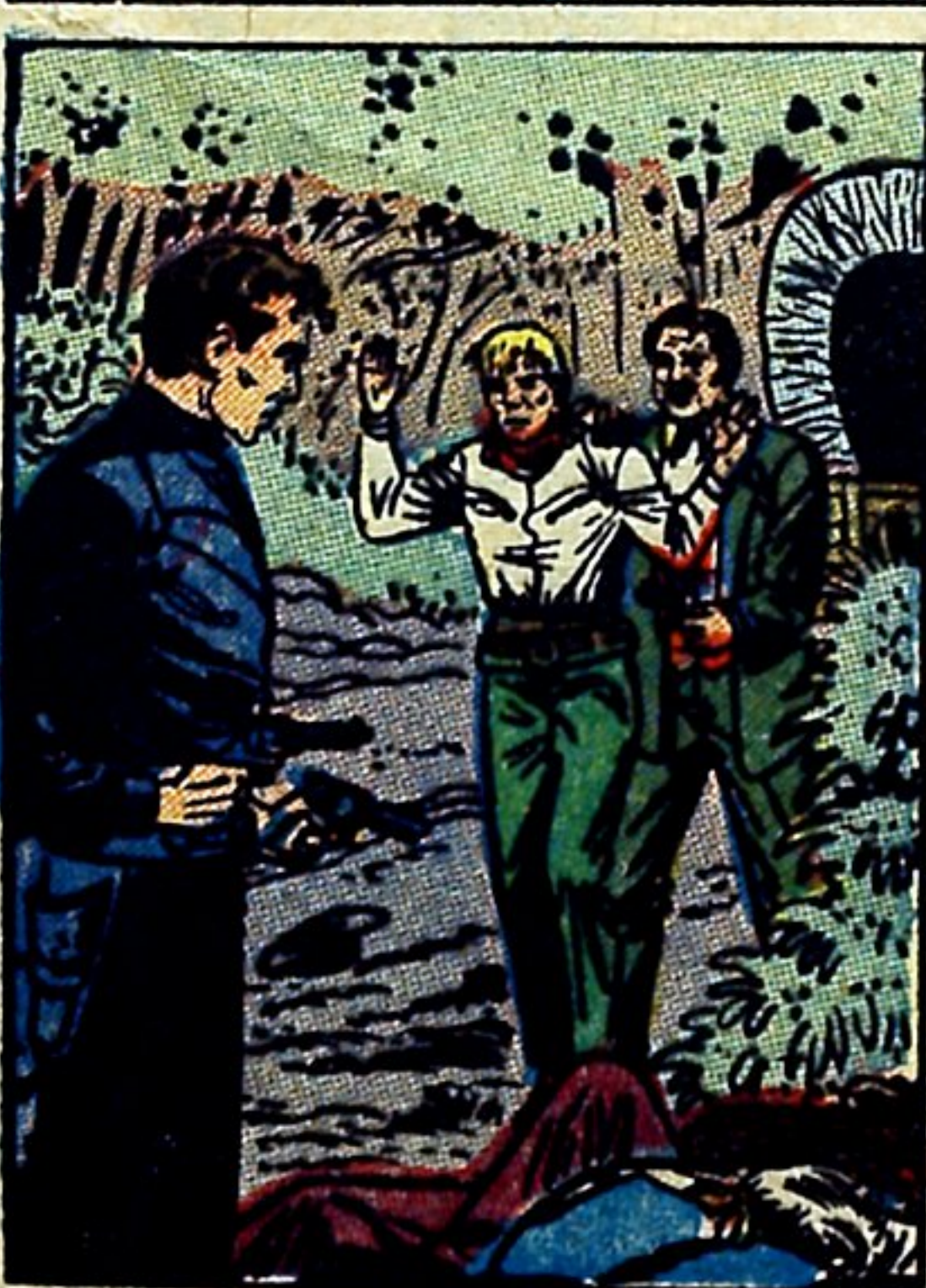
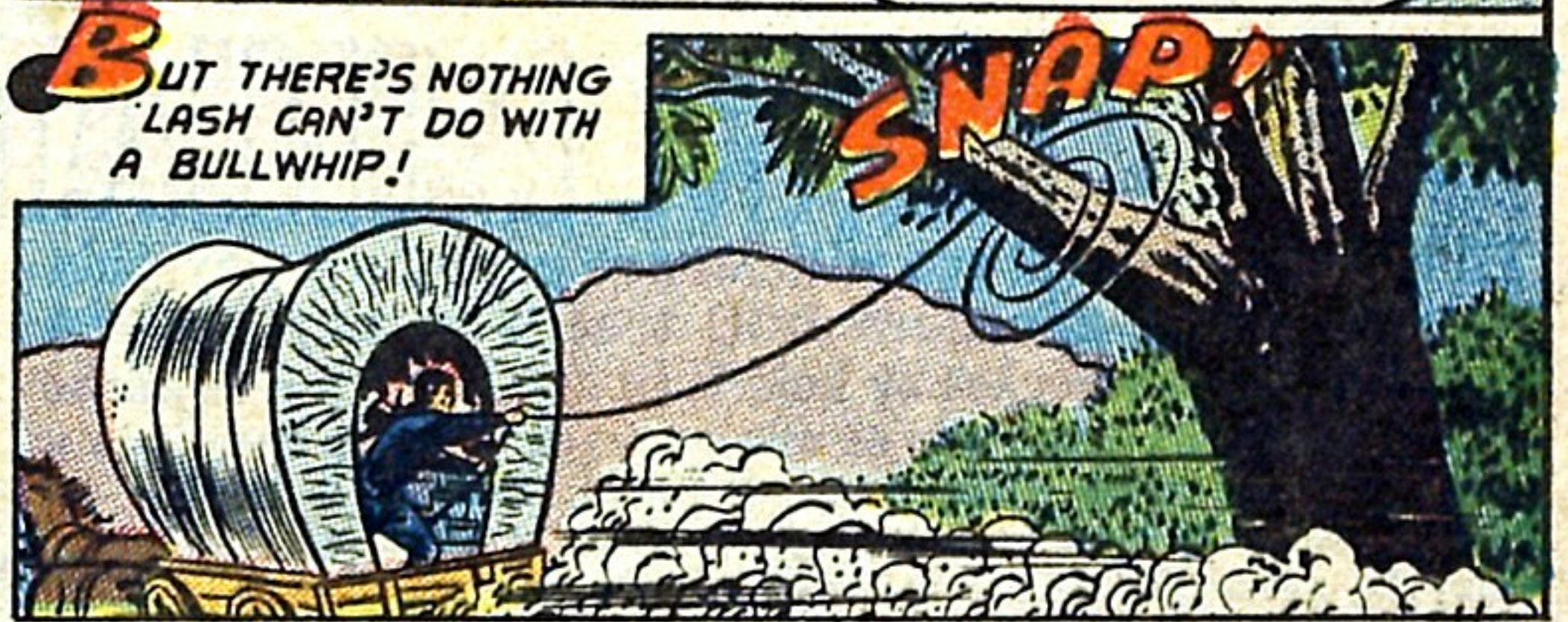
AND I THINK I KNOW HOW TO DO IT --- I HOPE!

GOOD OLD LASH! HE ALWAYS COMES THROUGH!

AS SOON AS I UNTIE YOU WE'LL GO AFTER THEM!

THAT WON'T BE AS EASY AS IT SOUNDS, LASH! THE MOMENT YOU START UNTYING THE OPENING TO THE DRIVER'S SEAT, THEY'LL REALIZE SOMETHING'S WRONG AND GET THE JUMP ON US!

LASH LARUE WESTERN





Mrs. Ruth Long

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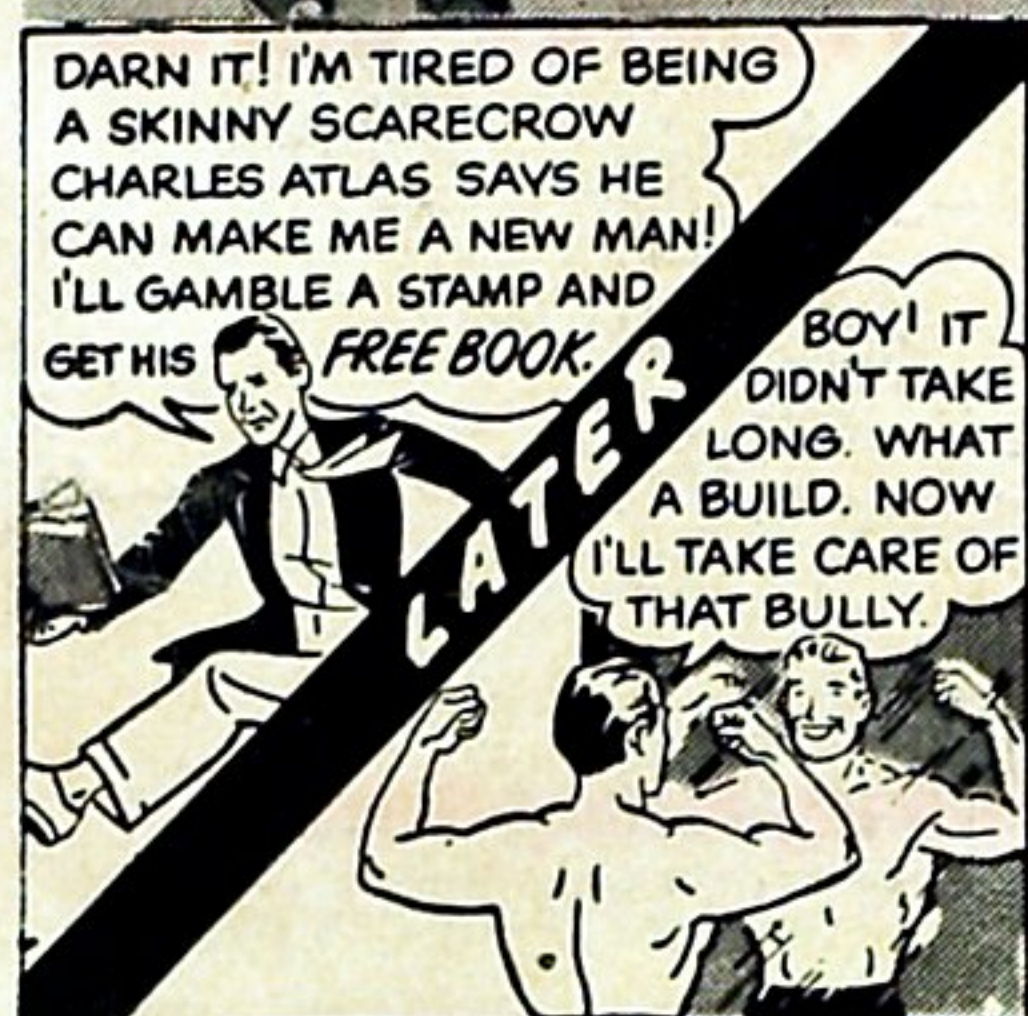
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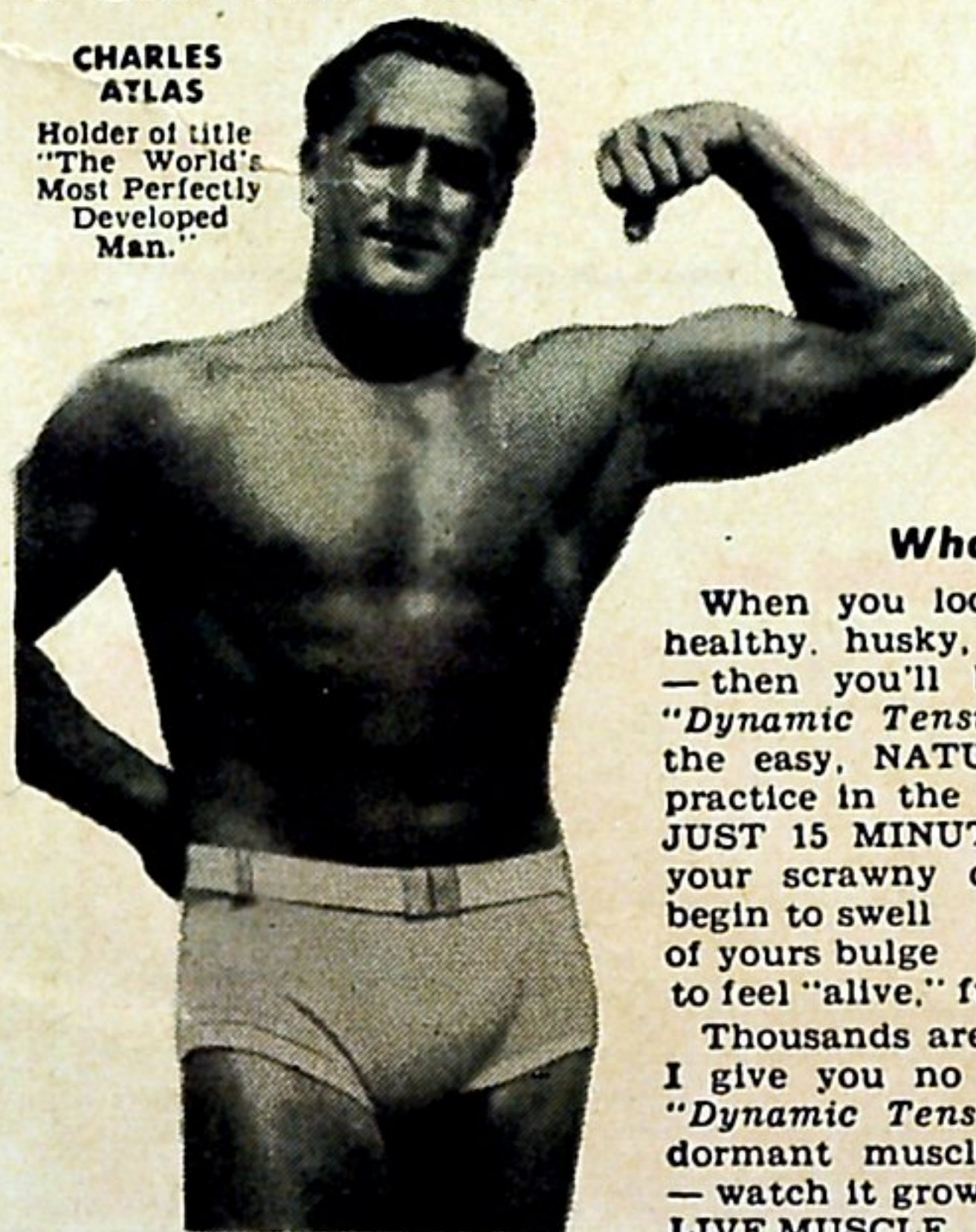
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